

U.N. panel begins Palestinian hearing

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations human rights team began Wednesday its annual investigation of Israeli behaviour in the occupied Arab territories and will later in the week fly to the region to take testimony from Palestinians. As the United Nations' main source of information on the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the panel reports each year to the U.N. General Assembly. It was set up in 1968. The three-member committee, headed by Daya Perera, Sri Lanka's ambassador to the United Nations in New York, met in Geneva Wednesday for a two-day session, a U.N. communiqué said. The experts will fly to the Middle East to hold hearings in Amman from May 21 to 24, Damascus from May 25 to 27, and Cairo from May 29 to June 1. They will take oral testimony from witnesses, many of them expected to be Palestinians recently expelled from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the communiqué said. Jordan, Egypt, the Arab League and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have sent letters to the committee about Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

U.S.: Blast hit Soviet rocket plant

WASHINGTON (R) — A huge explosion in the Ukraine has destroyed the Soviet Union's only production line for the main motor of its new rail-mounted SS-24 nuclear missile, U.S. defence officials said Wednesday. They told Reuters the blast last Thursday at a solid-rocket propellant plant near Pavlograd, 800 kilometres southwest of Moscow, would delay SS-24 production for at least six months but would not weaken Soviet nuclear forces. In Moscow, a Soviet spokesman said Wednesday the blast did not involve missile fuel or rockets. Gennady Gerasimov told Reuters three people had been killed in an explosion at a chemical plant in the Ukraine that produced industrial explosives (Related story on page 8). U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci announced last month that the Soviet Union had already deployed about 10 of the 10-warhead SS-24s on rail cars. The missiles have a range of 9 920 kilometres and, because they can be shifted about quickly, are almost impossible to destroy before they can be fired, according to the Defence Department.

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King sends good wishes to Norway

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable of congratulations to King Olav V of Norway on the occasion of the anniversary of Norway's Constitution Day. The King wished King Olav continuing good health and happiness and the Norwegian people further progress and prosperity.

Sudan says attack suspects confessed

KHARTOUM (R) — Three men have confessed to attacks on a Khartoum club and a hotel in which seven people died, saying they wanted to hit U.S. and British targets, Sudan's police chief said Wednesday. General Ibrahim Abdul Karim told reporters the three men, carrying Lebanese passports, said they had been trained in an Arab country which he did not name. The general said they had aimed at U.S. and British targets but he did not give their motives. The three were arrested shortly after a bomb attack on the Acropole Hotel and a machine-gunned raid on the Sudan Club in central Khartoum Sunday (see page 5).

Zia to visit China

PEKING (AP) — Pakistan President Mohammad Zia ul Haq will make an eight-day state visit to China from May 30, the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday. Zia, visiting China for the first time since 1982, will be the guest of President Yang Shangkun, ministry spokesman Li Zhaoxing said at a news briefing.

Pretoria denies Iran arms sales

CAPE TOWN (R) — Reports that South Africa is supplying arms to Iran is a "damaged lie," according to Defence Minister Magnus Malan. General Malan was reacting in parliament Tuesday to U.S. press reports, cited by an opposition parliamentarian, that South Africa was selling arms, including a powerful Howitzer, to Iran.

Egypt pardons 2,804

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has ordered the release of 2,804 prisoners to mark 'Eid al-Fitr, national newspapers reported Wednesday. The pardon applied to prisoners of good conduct who had served half their sentences but excluded those convicted of drug offences, robbery or black marketeering, they said.

Spain accepts U.S. offer

MADRID (R) — Spain has accepted an offer from the United States to protect its ships in the Gulf, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. He said Spain decided to accept the offer last Friday and that it was not a result of an Iraqi attack on the Spanish tanker Barcelona Saturday in which one crew member died and three more went missing.

Iraqi division commander fired

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has fired an army division commander for negligence during the liberation of the southern Fao peninsula from Iranian forces last month, newspapers reported Wednesday. A Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) decree signed by Hussein said Seventh Army Division Commander Brigadier Saad Abdul Hadi Mohammad Saleh was discharged from the army for failing to carry out his duties during the battle.

Ethiopia imposes war levy

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopian workers must contribute a month's pay to the war effort against northern rebels over the next year under a new decree. A proclamation by the Council of State, the supreme authority when parliament is in recess, said Tuesday all Ethiopians earning at least 50 birr (\$24) a month must to pay the levy in 12 monthly instalments starting next month.

W. Bank villagers clash with troops; 1 killed, 9 injured

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops killed one Palestinian and wounded nine others Wednesday during pre-dawn arrest sweeps in two West Bank villages, hospital officials and Arab witnesses said.

Another five Palestinians were taken to Ramallah hospital with beating injuries after stone-throwing protesters clashed with hundreds of soldiers in helicopters, army vehicles and bulldozers, witnesses told the AP. The army said soldiers clashed with hundreds of Palestinians in the villages of Abwein and Aurura about 15 kilometres north of Ramallah in the West Bank, and that a commander fired live ammunition, killing one and wounding four.

Five Palestinians were also injured by rubber bullets and tear gas, the army spokesman said. Residents quoted by Reuters said a large army force arrived at 5 a.m. and entered the village. They said the army had tried several times in past month to enter the village and had been

stopped by Palestinian protesters. Reuters also reported that nine protesters were injured, one seriously, by Israeli troops who opened fire and also used tear gas in the clash at Abwein and Aurura, hospital sources said.

The army closed the area to the press. It maintained curfews on the West Bank refugee camps of Dheisheh and Qalandia and the villages of Anabta and Kafr Bauja.

It also kept a curfew in the Gaza refugee camp of Jabalya. A joint Israeli government committee was meanwhile recommended that Israeli high school students in pre-military training should not serve at army bases where Palestinians are detained.

It was responding to an incident in February when students

were reported to have beaten Palestinian prisoners at a detention centre.

A spokesman for the Israeli "civil administration" said all schools in the West Bank, closed since February, would be gradually reopened from Monday.

No decision has been made about reopening universities, he said.

Merchants in the occupied lands observed a near total commercial strike as Muslims marked 'Eid al-Fitr.

In the West Bank, the army Tuesday arrested the head of the biology department of the Vatican-funded Bethlehem University, Palestinian sources said.

And in a mounting crackdown on the press, police arrested the publisher of the ultra-leftist Hebrew-Arabic newspaper Derech Hanitzotz, sources said.

Five editors of the bi-weekly newspaper — four Israelis and one Palestinian — were detained recently after Israel closed it down. None has yet been charged.

The Palestinian editor, Ribhi Al Aruri, was jailed for six months without trial.

Amal-Hizbollah war continues despite mediation, warning

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Pro-Iranian Shi'ite fighters fought Wednesday to oust Syrian-backed rivals from Beirut's southern suburbs as Iran pressed Syria not to send in its troops.

'Hostages face death'

BEIRUT (R) — Kidnappers of Western hostages threatened to kill their captives if Syrian troops moved to end bitter factional fighting in South Beirut, pro-Syrian Shi'ite Muslim sources said Wednesday. "The kidnappers of foreign hostages threatened to kill their captives if Syrian troops enter the southern suburbs," a top Shi'ite leader told Reuters.

Security sources and residents said fighters of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) and the pro-Syrian Amal militia ignored a ceasefire mediated by Iran and Syria to trade artillery, mortar and rocket fire across debris-strewn streets.

They said three people were killed in battles which rocked Chiyah and Ghobeiri districts, Amal's last strongholds in the area, taking the death toll in 13 days of fighting to more than 255.

Some 7,000 heavily-armed Syrian troops have surrounded the area since Saturday, awaiting orders to quell battles in the suburbs where some of the 22 foreigners missing in Lebanon are believed to be held hostage.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali-Mohammad Besbarati told reporters talks between Syria

and Iran would "definitely cancel" the Syrian decision to move in.

"It (the deployment) is not in Syria's interest and not all the people want the Syrian entry... I have said the suburbs do not need the presence of outside forces," he said after a meeting with acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss.

But a pro-Syrian official told Reuters Syria was still determined to deploy in the suburbs.

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France to restore relations with Iran

PARIS (R) — France's new government said Wednesday it would restore diplomatic links with Iran after a nine-month break, honoring a pledge given to win the release of the last French hostages held in Lebanon earlier this month.

Socialist Prime Minister Michel Rocard said re-elected President Francois Mitterrand has asked him to ensure that France kept its word and fulfilled the promises made to Iran by the previous government.

"The president and my government have decided that it is right that France's word should be kept as far as the negotiations established between the previous government and the republic of Iran are concerned," Rocard said.

He said the centre-right government headed by Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac had promised to restore diplomatic links with Iran in exchange for Tehran's help in bringing three French hostages back from Lebanon last May.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said the United States had no immediate comment on the French move.

On Monday, the United States denied a Kuwaiti newspaper report that senior U.S. and Iranian officials had met in Algeria to try to negotiate the release of 10 American hostages held by pro-Iranian and other groups in Lebanon.

France cut diplomatic ties with Iran last July over the refusal of an Iranian embassy official to help French magistrates investigating a series of bloody bomb attacks that shook Paris in the autumn of 1986.

Since then, Italy has looked after French interests in Iran while the Iranian embassy in Paris came under the Pakistani flag.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told Reuters he was to meet his Italian counterpart Giulio Andreotti later Wednesday to work out the technicalities of restoring ties.

Andreotti is in Paris for the annual meeting of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Rocard said it was Mitterrand who at Wednesday's weekly cabinet meeting called for the previous government's pledge to Iran to be honoured.

On May 5, Chirac had effusively thanked Iran for its help when welcoming back Marcel Carton, Marcel Fontaine and Jean-Paul Kauffmann and said the return of the last French hostages paved the way for restoring links with Tehran.

Although Chirac gave his word of honour that France had not paid any ransom for the three

Iranian gunboats attack Japanese tanker

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Three Iranian speedboats attacked a Japanese-owned chemical carrier in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, Tehran's first retaliation for Iraq's stepped up campaign to cut off Tehran's oil lifeline, Gulf-based shipping executives said.

The Iranians caught the 6,730-ton Ace Chemi tanker 15 kilometres south of their Larak offshore oil terminal at about 8 a.m. (0400 GMT). They pumped it with holes from both sides and set it ablaze, said the sources who spoke on condition they not be named.

The vessel, which flies the Panamanian flag, was en route to the Saudi Arabian oil port of Jubail to pick a shipment of petrochemicals destined for the Far East markets, they said.

The crew of the tanker took to

lifeboats when the vessel caught fire for fear it might explode, and were later picked up by a salvage tugboat that was in the vicinity, the sources said. They were identified as 16 South Koreans and their Japanese captain.

Two other salvage tugboats also rushed to the help of the stricken tanker and brought the flames aboard the tanker under control.

A U.S. navy spokesman said the nearest American warship was 100 kilometres away and there was no specific request for U.S. intervention or assistance.

The Ace Chemi later was put under tow and taken through the strait, towards the southern Gulf port of Dubai for repairs.

Iran's first strike since the United States said April 29 its navy would help neutral ships followed

Iraq's bombing raid on its main oil export terminal at Larak Island last Saturday. Washington's offer did not cover ships dealing with Iran or Iraq.

More than 30 seamen died in the Larak attack or in subsequent fires and explosions which sank one of the tugs helping for super-tankers hit in the raid.

Iraq attacked an Iranian tanker, the Bisoston, Monday. Shipping sources said Iran's Larak terminal was again operating normally after a four-day battle by salvage crews to contain the damage.

Twelve tug crewmen were believed killed Tuesday when a blast in an oil tank, probably caused by an unexploded bomb, ripped through the 235,000-tonne Spanish supertanker Barcelona.

King renews call for pan-Arab force, pledges total support for Palestinians

TAFLEH (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has renewed a call for further inter-Arab cooperation and the formation of an Arab rapid deployment force to defend Arab soil and protect Arab interests anywhere in the Arab World.

The King said the Jordanian Armed Forces would be honoured to serve within the ranks of the called-for force and do its duty towards the Arab Nation.

The King, in remarks to dignitaries, notables and officials at the southern town of Tafleeh following 'Eid al-Fitr prayers there Monday, said Jordan would remain "at the head of Arab forces protecting Arab soil and Arab heritage."

"Let us hope that the near future will witness the birth of the



HM King Hussein

rapid deployment force which would serve as a nucleus of an Arab army that can offer proper defence for the Arab Homeland," the King said. The force, he added, will help the Arabs achieve their aspirations and fulfil the dreams of the free Arabs who had struggled to protect their homeland and had faced numerous challenges.

King Hussein said a unified Arab military might "can thwart the evil ambitions of the Iranians who dream of establishing a Persian empire at the expense of the Arab World."

"Through its continued aggression on Iraq, Iran hopes to occupy Arab land and Arab and Islamic holy places in Mecca and Medina and to dominate Arab wealth, but Iraq, for the past

eight years, has been aborting all Iranian attempts through determination and through repelling one attack after another," the King said.

Jordan, he said, will remain committed to Arab causes to true adherence to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and will continue to back Iraq and all other Arab countries facing foreign aggression.

Jordan will also continue to extend all possible help to the Palestinian people now involved in the uprising against the Israeli enemy, the King said.

Paying tribute to the Palestinians and the uprising, King Hussein said the uprising should rightly be called a true Palestinian

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Iraq reports intensive air raids on warfront

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq reported intensive air raids on Iranian troop concentrations Wednesday but made no reference to claims from Tehran of a new Iranian offensive in the 7½-year-old war.

High command communiques said Iraqi jets and helicopter gunships flew 174 combat missions against Iranian troop concentrations Wednesday after flying 240 missions on Tuesday.

In the past, such high rates of attack on the 1,480-kilometre war front have indicated an Iranian offensive was underway.

Teban Radio and the Iranian news agency IRNA claimed Wednesday Revolutionary Guards had killed or wounded 2,000 Iraqi troops in a new offensive in northeastern Iraq.

Teban radio claimed the guards captured nine strategic peaks in mountains east of Dukan, 300 kilometres north of Baghdad, in an operation launched Tuesday.

The Iraqi war communiques said anti-aircraft gunners shot down an Iranian jet which tried to enter Iraqi air space over the central sector of the front.

An Iraqi military spokesman earlier denied Iranian charges

that Iraq had used chemical weapons in air attacks on the north Iranian border town of Sardasht.

The spokesman said Iraqi planes had not attacked the area with any weapon, adding: "The Iranian claim is an absurd attempt to justify the shelling of residential border areas in Iraq with long-range artillery."

Iraqis warned Britain

In London, the Foreign Office said Wednesday Iraq warned Britain twice that its ships in the Gulf could be attacked before Iraqi jets bombed the British-registered Burmah Endeavour at the weekend.

A spokesman said the Iraqi embassy in London complained on May 10 that British ships were operating in what Iraq called the Iranian exclusion zone in the Gulf and were helping the Iranian effort in the Gulf war.

Two days later Britain's ambassador in Baghdad was summoned to the Foreign Ministry where the warning was repeated, the spokesman said. He said Iraq frequently made such complaints.

The Burmah Endeavour was one of four tankers in the Gulf bombed by Iraqi jets Saturday.

Jordan denies Israeli claim

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan denied reports from Israel Wednesday that Palestinian commandos had staged an attack from the East Bank and fought a gunbattle with Israeli troops.

"There was no gunbattle, it's not true, it did not take place," said an official quoted by Reuters.

"Jordan's stand towards infiltrations is well-known. We don't permit them," said the official.

An Israeli army spokesman earlier claimed that Israeli troops wounded and captured a Palestinian commando after a commando unit crossed into the occupied West Bank from the East Bank Tuesday night.

The Jordanian official denied that Jordanian troops were searching for guerrillas, but added: "Of course they patrol the frontiers. That is part of their duty."

(Continued on page 5)

Peres sees possible Soviet Mideast move

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday he saw a possibility that Moscow would move towards the U.S. Middle East peace initiative at the U.S.-Soviet summit.

"I think that there is a fair chance that the Russians will make some moves in the direc-

tion of the United States' proposal," Peres said in a television interview.

"I'm not sure that they will be able to reach a conclusion, but even if they will reach some progress it will be of importance," Peres said.

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White House, Senate leaders press for INF ratification

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Senate leaders pressed Wednesday for approval of the U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms treaty within a week so President Ronald Reagan can take it to his Moscow meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Democratic-controlled Senate returned Wednesday morning to the treaty Reagan and Gorbachev signed Dec. 8 in Washington. The chamber finally opened debate Tuesday afternoon after last-minute snags in interpretation delayed discussion.

White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker told reporters it would be "a major plus" if the Senate ratified the treaty before the summit.

Reagan leaves next Wednesday for the summit, which begins May 29.

Baker, former Senate majority leader, said he believed "the odds are better than even" the deadline would be met.

"That's up to the Senate and I hope my former colleagues in the Senate move forward with speed,

because to be able to take the ratification documents to Moscow would be a major plus," he said.

Senate floor action had been delayed for more than a week by two disputes, one over how the United States and the Soviets interpret the on-site inspection verification provisions and the other involving whether so-called "futuristic" weapons are banned by the pact. Both nations agree they are.

The intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty requires the elimination within three years of all missiles with a range of 500 to 5,000 kilometres.

Democratic Senate majority leader Robert Byrd told reporters. "This treaty can be approved by the time the president leaves if we deal only with those serious, legitimate amendments that ought to be dealt with on this issue."

The Senate's Republican leader, Bob Dole, added: "I do hope the president will have the treaty when he goes to Moscow."

Returning Soviet soldiers get heroes' welcome

TERMEZ, The Soviet Union (Agencies) — Bands played, horns honked and flags fluttered as the first convoy of 1,200 Soviet troops leaving Moscow's pull-out from Afghanistan were welcomed home as heroes Wednesday.

Soldiers, grimy but grinning, waved to cheering crowds from the tops of their tanks as the column rumbled over the Friendship Bridge across the Amu-Darya River and into the small border town of Termez.

Thousands of people had waited on the river banks since early morning for the arrival of the convoy which in three days had travelled 740 kilometres from Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan to Kabul and north to the Uzbekistan frontier town.

"Welcome to the soldier-internationalists who have courageously fulfilled their

duties," proclaimed the banners decorating the streets. Children dressed in communist pioneer uniforms rushed to greet the soldiers with flowers.

In bright sunshine, a hand struck up a military march and Termez motorists began honking their horns.

Novikov's vehicle was followed by 229 more tanks and armoured cars which massed for a rally in Termez's main square.

The route to the square hristled with streamers and Soviet flags and roadside food stands offered the soldiers Uzbek dishes of soup with lamb, rice pilaf, fruit, vegetables and drinks.

The most dangerous stretches of the convoy's journey had been expected to be a gorge north of Kabul, the capital, and the Salang Tunnel, in the Hindu Kush mountains, where Afghan rebels

have a strong presence.

But Colonel Grigory Bondarev, a senior officer with the convoy, told reporters Wednesday there were no major incidents on the journey from Jalalabad, near the border with Pakistan, through Kabul to the Soviet border.

"All who left Jalalabad arrived safe and healthy," he said. "I can tell you officially that there was no shooting from Jalalabad to Kabul and from Kabul to Khairaton."

However, Soviet television Tuesday night showed a correspondent with the convoy while rifle fire crackled around him. The reporter did not give his location.

The filmed television report showed soldiers on the flower-decked moving vehicles watching calmly as automatic gunfire rang

out and their colleagues in fortified roadside posts responded with what it called a withering bombardment of rebel positions.

The report indicated there were no casualties among the men in the column, leaving Afghanistan under April's Geneva accords 8½ years after Moscow sent troops into the country, officially at the request of Kabul.

Some of the 1,200 troops in the column of 230 tanks and armoured cars were shown later taking a meal break and a wash during a halt inside the long Salang tunnel through the Hindu Kush mountains 120 kilometres out of Kabul.

There seemed little doubt that the stop-off in the tunnel, known to be heavily guarded at both ends, rather than in open country was decided to avoid any risk of a

rebel bombardment of the convoy while it was stationary.

The tunnel, largely built by Soviet engineers, was reported to have been the scene of carnage in the mid-1980s when, according to Kabul diplomats, a rebel bomb in an Afghan truck devastated a Soviet military supply column.

Foreign correspondents were flown from Moscow to Kabul last week to witness the start of the withdrawal. On Wednesday, they were taken to Heiraton from the nearby city of Mazari-Sharif to see the column cross the Amu-Darya.

The convoy is the first significant withdrawal of Soviet forces under a U.N.-sponsored peace accord that calls for the Kremlin to remove all of its 115,000 military personnel within nine months.

Princess Alia engaged to Mohammad Al Saleh

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, the eldest daughter of His Majesty King Hussein, was engaged to marry Mohammad Anwar Farid Al Saleh at a ceremony held at Al Nadwa Palace in Amman on Sunday.

It will be the second marriage for the Princess who was married before to Naser Muzza.

The engagement ceremony was

attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Faisal, the Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and other members of the Royal family and members of Al Saleh family.

Ureikat to head Jordan's team to 75th ILO session

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has decided to form a delegation to take part in the 75th session of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which will open in Geneva.

Jordan's delegation to the ILO meeting will be led by Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat.

The delegation is made up of representatives of employers, the government and workers in Jordan, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

At the ILO meeting, to be held between June 1 and 22, a report by the ILO's board of directors on occupational safety in the construction business, social security for workers and arbitrary practices against labourers will be discussed.

During the conference, the Arab group will hold a separate meeting to work out a draft resolution condemning Israel for its human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories.

Jordan, Egypt to link national grids in 1993

By Sa'ad Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A \$150-million project linking the national grids of Jordan and Egypt is currently under study and would be operational by the year 1993, a well placed official at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) said Wednesday.

Ribbi Al Hamed, chief engineer of JEA's Transmission and Distribution Division, told the Jordan Times, both sides were following up on a technical study to assess the feasibility of the projected linkage.

The linkage with Egypt, according to initial studies, will be through a submarine cable connecting Aqaba Thermal Power Station and two points on Egyptian territories — one in Sinai peninsula and the other in Suez. The study, carried out by the Electricite de France (EDF) company in coordination with experts from both countries, is due to be finalised in December 1988.

"Once a final report on the project has been drawn up," Mr. Hamed said, "the two countries will float tenders in 1989 and work on the project would begin a year after."

Mr. Hamed noted that a "pre-feasibility" study by JEA experts and their Egyptian counterparts has proven the projected linkage would be viable.

The linkage with Egypt, he continued, will help the two sides deal with emergency power shortages in their countries, and to benefit from low-cost power.

Reports reaching here from Cairo said Egypt will face an acute power shortage if the water level at the Aswan Dam, the

main power supplier of the most populous Arab country, continues its current slide.

President Hosni Mubarak said last week that his country was bound to witness "electricity blackout" in certain parts, in the event of continued dry seasons.

Jordan's power consumption, however, falls in the region of 500 megawatt, but the Kingdom's overall production capacity, if all power stations are operational, hits a 900-megawatt high, according to statistics obtained from the JEA.

Until recently, Jordan used to supply Syria with a flow current of up to 100 megawatt/hour, at a time when Damascus' power generation fell short of the country's demand. Jordan's power supply to Syria ceased recently.

Under the feasibility study agreement with the French firm, Jordan and Egypt left an "option" clause for possible Saudi Arabia's inclusion should it decide to join in, said Mr. Hamed, who last week returned from Cairo, where he held follow-up talks with his Egyptian counterparts and EDF experts.

High level contacts are currently underway between Riyadh, Cairo and Amman to explore the prospects of Saudi Arabia's inclusion in the network as third partner, according to reports.

Mr. Hamed noted that the door was open for Syria and Turkey to link their grids with the projected network, to be similar to that linking European countries.

Moreover, prospects for linking the network with another one linking Gulf Arab states with Saudi Arabia, a project currently under study.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, along with Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Cabinet members and senior officials, attends 'Eid Al Fitr prayers at Al Hussein Mosque Monday (Petra photo)

Queen visits SOS village, distributes gifts to children

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the SOS Children's Village in Amman where she distributed gifts to the children on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr.

The Queen, who was welcomed by the village director and other officials, toured the village and chatted with the 59 children residents and their supervisors wishing them well on the Eid Al Fitr and spending some time with them.

The Queen was briefed on the achievements of the village which was formally opened in May 1987 by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

The village, situated on 33 dunums of land at Tareq town west of Amman, comprises nine family houses, a director's house, a bakery, a supermarket, a staff house, a guest house and a kindergarten which opened its doors in 1986.

The village houses orphans and

abandoned children, and care is provided through the help of women with household experience serving as "mothers" to the destitute children.

The SOS children's village, set up by the Austria-based SOS Children's Villages Organisation, is being supported through the donations and contributions from Jordanians and local organisations.

The Amman village, which is the 14th of its kind in the Arab World, plans to set up a youth hostel, and a vocational training centre to train the orphaned children in different crafts and trades.

The SOS Children's Villages were founded by Professor Hermann Gmeiner who died in Austria in 1986 and was buried in Imst, Austria.

It was there that he established the first SOS Children's Village 37 years ago.

The founder of the organisation

had said that children entrusted to SOS Children's Villages are cared for until they are able to master their own life and are integrated into society with a secure life.

At present, the children in the SOS Children's Village in Amman attend government schools in the municipality of Tareq or, if they are between the ages of three and six, attend the village's kindergarten.

They live in homes each of which is an independent unit with its own garden.

Each one-storey house consists of three bedrooms, each with three beds, all necessary utilities, in addition to a living and dining room and small storage and laundry areas.

SOS Children's Village officials say the children are living in little groups in order to provide them as far as possible with a substitute for their own lost family and to give them a home of their own.

Extinguisher blast kills factory owner

ZARQA (J.T.) — A 45-year-old man from Zarqa died when a fire extinguisher he was trying to use to put out a fire exploded in his face killing him instantly.

The man, George Zaidan, owns an ice cream factory in Zarqa where the incident took place, injuring a woman employee Noura Mohammad Suleiman and causing some damage to the factory.

Eyewitnesses reported to the police that George threw the extinguisher on the floor when it failed to function but it exploded two minutes later as he was still around, fatally wounding him in the neck and face.

In Amman a six-year-old child Jihad Yousef died from a strong electric shock while playing on the roof of his home, and in Madaba a fire killed a one-year-old child Marian Omran, according to reports in the local press.

Arab delegates to discuss educational programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from Jordan, Syria and Palestine as well as Arab League organisations will open a meeting in Amman on Saturday to discuss educational subjects beamed to Arab people in the occupied Arab territories.

The delegates, grouped in a special committee supervising educational programmes broadcast to the occupied lands, will review recommendations of previous meetings and coordination with Arab broadcasting stations for beaming these programmes.

Reports in the local press said the committee was established some 17 years ago to confront Israel's propaganda media and Israeli measures to distort Arab school textbooks, and to provide education to Arab students to strengthen their steadfastness and enable them to preserve the Arab identity of Palestine.

Ministry to organise handicraft exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education will organise an exhibition of handicraft products by its vocational centres between May 21 and 28.

A total of 36 vocational centres around the country will take part in the exhibition, which will be set up in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The exhibition will be held at Ha Nazzal district.

Crown Prince attends prayers at Al Hussein Mosque

Khayyat calls for deeper faith in hearts of youth

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday celebrated Eid Al Fitr at the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan with worshippers at the Al Hussein Mosque downtown Amman.

Accompanied by the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, deputy speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, the Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan and a number of cabinet members and officials, the Crown Prince heard the feast sermon delivered by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

The sermon concentrated on deepening faith in the hearts of the new generation through cooperation between the school and the parents at home.

Sheikh Khayyat also hailed the oppressed Palestinian people under Israeli rule who, he said,

are facing difficult time and brutal measures by the enemy.

He referred to the holy places particularly the Aqsa Mosque who, he said, are being subjected to acts of sacrilege by the Israelis.

Khayyat reaffirmed Jordan's firm stand under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein in supporting the Palestinian people against Israeli atrocities and criminal actions.

He also reiterated Jordan's support for Iraq which is confronting the Iranian enemy on the eastern flank of the Arab World.

After the sermon and the prayers, Prince Hassan met with worshippers who expressed their good wishes on the occasion.

Later, Prince Hassan visited the tomb of the late King Abdullah the founder of the Kingdom, and the tomb of the late King Talal Ibn Abdullah where he recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid wreaths.

The tombs were also visited by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, King Hussein's personal representative, who recited verses of the Koran and laid wreaths.

Prince Hassan on Monday also visited Al Hussein Youth City and met with senior officers of the Armed Forces, the Public Security, the Civil Defence and Intelligence Departments, and wished them well on the occasion.

Present with Prince Hassan were His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and the Armed Forces Commander in Chief, Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Seminar to discuss low-cost housing

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on ensuring homes for low-income families will be opened at the Amman Plaza Hotel Saturday by Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh.

A report in the local press said that the seminar is designed to encourage the private investment sector to carry out housing projects in cooperation with the pub-

lic sector, and to review obstacles impeding the private sector's involvement in such major projects.

The report said that participants in the four-day seminar will review working papers submitted by the Housing Bank and the private sector, dealing with low-cost housing for poor families, the role of the Housing Bank in

financing housing projects and the present housing situation in the Kingdom.

A large number of investors, in their capacity as private individuals or representatives of construction companies, will take part in the seminar which will also be attended by experts from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

RJ hopes to establish Miami as connecting point to Americas

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

MIAMI — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has launched its new route to Miami in Florida via Vienna hoping to establish the American city as a connecting point, linking Jordan with the two Americas and encouraging tourists to come to Jordan's archaeological and recreational sites, RJ Board Chairman and Executive President Ali Ghandour said at Miami Airport.

It is also hoped that the new route will encourage Jordanian expatriates living in America to pay visits to their homeland in the Arab World on board RJ planes, Ghandour said at a press conference following the arrival of RJ's first flight to Miami.

"Jordan, which enjoys stability and security, hopes to attract as many tourists as possible from all

parts of the world with the help of its national carrier that maintains a network of routes to the five continents," Ghandour said.

In addition to Miami, RJ's planes fly to Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. But the new destination is regarded as a significant stage in the airline's endeavours to reach Central America and Latin America, "and invite tourists to visit Jordanian archaeological treasures," Ghandour noted.

He said that RJ's planes, like the Kingdom of Jordan, enjoy complete security, offering tranquillity and peace for the travellers, Ghandour noted.

In addition, RJ operates a maintenance workshop offering service not only to its own planes but also to other Arab and friendly airlines, Ghandour added.

He reviewed the development of the national airline from the

time it was a small entity until it became one of the most efficient airlines, connecting the Jordanian capital with major cities in the five continents.

He announced that shortly RJ will add New Delhi to the list of major cities connected with Amman through direct flights.

Attending the press conference were RJ officials, and directors of RJ offices in the United States.

RJ's first flight arrived in Miami on May 3 and was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein. Also present were Jordanian and American airline officials.

Miami is the fourth destination for RJ in North America and the 42nd destination in the world. Using a TriStar, it maintains twice weekly flights to Miami, departing Amman every Tuesday and Thursday.

TCC computers register sharp increase in international calls

TAFILEH (Petra, J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation's (TCC) computer section registered a sharp increase in the volume of international telephone calls in the 48 hours that followed the announcement of Eid Al Fitr in Amman, according to TCC Director General Mohammad Shahid Ismail.

He said that the calls were 50 per cent more than those registered in the same feast of last year and 60 per cent more than the average volume of calls on other normal days.

This was not expected before by the TCC management, and has presented some difficulties for subscribers and callers from Jordan trying to reach friends and relatives abroad, Ismail noted.

He said that these increases are useful indicators from which TCC will benefit in amending agreements with other countries with which Jordan intends to open extra channels for telephone

communication.

Ismail expressed his belief that the increase in the volume of calls resulted largely from Jordanian expatriates trying to reach their relatives in Jordan in the Eid holiday.

Ismail said in an interview published Monday in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily that the TCC has disconnected the telephones of 6,000 subscribers who had failed to pay their bills for last year's calls.

He said that the TCC had to resort to this measure after failing

to induce the subscribers to pay their dues despite the numerous announcements in the local press and the warnings issued to those failing to respond.

According to Ismail, by the end of last March there were 24,240 subscribers who had not yet paid their dues, which altogether amount to JD 3,687,428.

In the same issue the paper published interviews with a number of citizens urging the TCC to offer them to pay their overdue bills by instalment, especially for large bills.

TU to resume Amman flights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Tunisian Airline (TU) has resumed its flights between Tunis and Amman in implementation of a 1976 agreement, concluded by Jordan and Tunisia.

The Tunisian Airline, which was established in 1948, operates flights in five Tunisian cities and maintains a network of routes to different Arab and foreign countries.

Expert: Road accidents should be considered internal problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — A study conducted by a specialist working for the Health Ministry revealed that road accidents in Jordan should be considered an internal problem since 92 per cent of the cars involved in accidents covered by the study involved Jordanian cars and Jordanian motorists.

The specialist, Dr. Vassam Hijawi, said that he conducted the study on 1,597 accidents which occurred in different areas of Jordan 1985.

Out of these, 852 accidents caused material damage and 745 resulted in injuries to people causing the death of 86 people, Hijawi said.

The Amman governorate had the lion's share of the accidents which occurred at the rate of one

for every 1,000 vehicles operating in and around the capital, Hijawi noted.

He said that other governorates, especially those in the south, registered far fewer accidents with the acceptance of those occurring along the main highways which go through these governorates.

Most of the accidents which occur in Jordan, he said, are reported in the months of June and July due to the increase in the number of cars and people on the roads, in view of the summer holidays and the presence of visitors and Jordanian expatriates spending their holiday in the Kingdom, according to Hijawi.

On the whole, he said, most of the accidents occur during the day since travel is rare on Jordanian roads during the night.

Earlier Rajai Dajani stated that road accidents in Jordan last year increased by 2,077 over those registered in 1986, causing 32 more deaths and 1,427 more injuries than those of 1986.

Dajani, who was addressing a special celebration to mark World Traffic Day, said that all concerned parties including motorists, pedestrians and departments responsible for roads, should join forces to bring an end to the carnage on roads.

Public Security Department officials said earlier that a total of 14,068 road accidents occurred in the Kingdom in 1987 causing the death of 355 people and the injury of 395 others.

1988 Amman Little League baseball season ends

The 1988 Amman Little League baseball season has come and gone, once again characterized by much young talent, considerable work by parents, coaches, officials, sponsors and team mothers, and reaffirmation of the fact that whether you win or lose the real value of sports is the joy of competition and the camaraderie of a team effort. Some moments from the past season:



Jordan's future baseball hopefuls show their batting techniques.



Coaches Maher Khelifeh (left) and Mithkal Asfour confer on an important strategy decision during a recent game (photo on the right)

At the end of the game, winners and losers congratulate each other on a fine performance



A rookie gets some hitting tips from his coach

Jordan Times

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Iran's setbacks

THE CONFRONTATION between Iranian proxy forces and the pro-Syrian Amal militia in Lebanon cannot be brushed aside as another of those regular spasms of violence that the strife-torn country is used to after more than 12 years of war and bloodbath involving one or another of its own factions or foreign forces. All indications are that the head-on clash between Amal and Iranian-backed Hizbollah which dragged the Syrians into the conflict is indeed a carefully planned Iranian move to reassert its influence among Lebanese Shi'ites and restore some of Tehran's pride, if you will, which suffered heavy setbacks elsewhere in the Middle East and the Gulf.

We don't have to look far to find the reasons for the seemingly strange Iranian behaviour in pitting its supporters against forces backed by a strong ally — Syria. Tehran received at least four severe blows in the course of the last two months; its forces were driven out of Iraq's Fao peninsula after a two-year occupation; it suffered heavy losses in the April 15 naval confrontation with American forces in the Gulf; Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with Iran and dealt a blow to Tehran's plans to reactivate a politicisation of the pilgrimage to Mecca; and Hizbollah lost its strongholds in South Lebanon after a week of fierce clashes with Amal. No doubt, the unsuccessful bid by hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner to free pro-Iranian prisoners in Kuwait compounded the Iranians' string of setbacks.

It might be too early to predict the outcome of the new Syrian move to control the free run that Hizbollah enjoys in Beirut's southern suburbs; we can only welcome the Syrian decision, with the hope that it was prompted, finally, by a new-found awareness of the real nature of Iran's long-term objectives in Lebanon, and, for that matter, of Tehran's broader designs in the Gulf and elsewhere in the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Reasserting our confidence

ON the 21st anniversary of Israel's occupation of Jerusalem the Israelis reaffirmed their intention to keep the holy city united under their rule and escalated arbitrary measures against the Arab people of Palestine. The anniversary coincided with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine, reminding the Arabs of their usurped rights of land, and of Israel's atrocities being waged on their kinsmen struggling for freedom. Forty years of occupation have not granted Israel any peace or stability because occupation cannot change the facts of history, nor can they erase the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Forty years of Israel's presence on Arab land will not prevent the Arabs from gathering their power and their courage, and rise up in defence of their land. The Palestinian revolt which broke out in December 1987 clearly demonstrates the determination of the Arab people to resist occupation and regain their land and their rights. This uprising indicates that injustice, no matter how long it prevails, will not triumph, and that the oppressed people sooner or later will regain their lands. The Arab revolt in Palestine is bound to bring the Zionists to their senses and will no doubt thwart their conspiracies. The anniversary gives us time to reflect on the situation and reassert our confidence in the future.

Al Dustour: Need to unify our ranks

THE anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine came amidst an escalation of the uprising in the occupied Arab lands and determined resistance against Israeli occupation. Zionism, in collusion with allies around the world, succeeded 40 years ago in establishing a Jewish state in the midst of the Arab World, and has been providing this state with unlimited help to enable it to expand at the expense of Arab countries. But this Jewish state, despite its military superiority, is still suffering from instability and lack of peace. This Jewish state, which is still rejected by the Arabs, continues to adopt military force as a means for maintaining occupation of Arab land. After 40 years of occupation the Israelis are not certain about their own future, and it seems to them that time is not on their side. They have been occupying our land by iron and fire and supported by the American dollar throughout the past four decades, but they seem to be shaking and falling apart in the face of a Palestinian revolt, and the continuous uprising in Palestinian land. This uprising is only an indicator that the Arab Nation still possesses its own will and it is determined to regain its rights and lands no matter how long the occupation lasts. This occasion should serve as an incentive for us to reassess our position and rally our forces and unify our ranks, because with true determination we are bound to succeed.

Sawt Al Shaab: Freedom and liberation

THE Arab World celebrated Eid Al Fitr following the holy month of Ramadan, an occasion which reminds us of the need to exchange affection and maintain solidarity within our ranks. It is an occasion to remind us of our duty to protect our national unity and do all we can to end side differences that weaken our position. On Eid Al Fitr one can remind himself of the need for Arab-Islamic solidarity as called for by Islam and for working in unity to repel aggression. It is an occasion to reject all measures and actions that tend to distort the true face of Islam such as those practiced by Iran which is involved in an aggression on Iraq. The Eid Al Fitr is an occasion for Arabs and Muslims to remind themselves of the duty to strengthen their solidarity in the face of the Israeli enemy now involved in waging a war of genocide against our people in occupied Palestine. The Eid Al Fitr is a reminder for us to extend help to our kinsmen under Israeli rule to strengthen their steadfastness and support their uprising to achieve freedom and liberation.

Sudan's aid may depend on ending war, improving civil rights

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Western aid to impoverished Sudan might be tied in future to the government's record on human rights over the civil war in the south, according to diplomats.

"The continuation of aid at this stage could mean an indirect support for Khartoum's war effort," said one diplomat from a donor nation.

The government's five-year war against the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the mainly animist and Christian south is estimated to cost several million dollars a day.

Militias, recruited to fight SPLA rebels seeking to end what they see as domination by the mainly Muslim and Arab north, have been accused by relief agencies of killing civilians indiscriminately.

"What is going on is not morally right. We give aid on the understanding that national unity is preserved and that human rights are kept," another western diplomat said Friday. "We cannot continue to pour aid into northern Sudan alone."

Sudan is under pressure from both donors and creditors to take unpopular steps to reform its economy after failing to meet payments in full on its foreign

debts of nearly \$12 billion since the early 1980s. It owes the International Monetary Fund (IMF) nearly \$800 million in arrears.

At the same time, it is struggling to treat more than 21,000 meningitis cases in what health officials call the country in nearly 30 years.

Western diplomats fear their aid could indirectly help Khartoum's war against the SPLA.

"On the other hand, there is no realistic chance of any economic recovery while the war is raging on," one said.

Khartoum hopes to receive nearly \$4.8 billion in soft loans

and grants to finance a proposed four-year recovery programme. In exchange, aid and creditor nations want the government to adjust exchange rates, liberalise the economy and privatise or streamline loss-making state enterprises.

Diplomats said donors demanded that the government must also stop militias killing innocent civilians and an alleged resurgence of slavery.

"We are very upset by these reports. But we have not yet come to the point where we condition fresh aid on the improvement of Sudan's human rights record," one diplomat said. "But if things continue to de-

teriorate as they have recently been, this will certainly be a distinct possibility," he added. The London-based charity Minority Rights said last week that thousands of civilians had been killed by militias operating outside army control.

Foreign relief workers and refugees escaping war and famine in the south have said that some mothers pawned teenage sons to buy passage for the rest of their families to Khartoum.

The government vehemently denied claims by two Khartoum university lecturers last year that hundreds of southerners, mainly young women and children from the Dinka tribe, were being en-

slaved by tribesmen in south Darfur.

One diplomat said donors wanted a detailed government statement on peace prospects in the south and on human rights.

A group of Western ambassadors protested to the Foreign Ministry in December at an alleged massacre in March 1987 of an estimated 1,500 Dinka tribesmen in south Darfur and the killing of several hundred more in the southern town of Wau last August and September by troops and militiamen.

So far there has been no response and the government has not publicly acknowledged receipt of the protest, diplomats said.

Turkey's former Cyprus hero looks to better days

By John Owen-Davies
Reuters

ANKARA — Undeterred by such setbacks as detention by the army and electoral humiliation, Turkey's former Prime Minister and national hero Bulent Ecevit is seeking a comeback.

"I believe I am still in a position to contribute to the Social Democratic movement," said Ecevit, apparently set on winning the backing of Turkey's democratic, fragmented left.

Ecevit was elevated briefly to hero status in 1974 when he ordered Turkish troops to Cyprus after a short-lived coup in Nicosia inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

He was detained six years later after a military coup, and later, along with other civilian leaders, was banned from political activity.

The ban was lifted by a referendum last September, but Ecevit's joy was short-lived. Two months later his Democratic Left Party (DLP) failed to win a seat in a general election.

He stepped down as DLP head in February and it appeared the charismatic politician was at the end of the political road.

Although Ecevit has made no formal bid for leadership of the left, he has maintained close contact with supporters and groups in other democratic leftist organisa-

tions. He regularly visits rural areas and meets trade union members and spoke at a political rally last weekend in Gebze, western Turkey.

There he said: "The reason behind Turkey's present problems is the 1980 military takeover. The economic model and regime implemented after the takeover has gone bankrupt."

"The (ruling) Motherland Party government has gone bankrupt in six months and cannot possibly stand up for further four-and-a-half years."

Ecevit is scheduled to visit The Netherlands on May 18 for a conference on problems of social democracy in Turkey before going to Sweden for a Swedish writers association meeting.

Turkey's main parliamentary opposition, the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), is in some disarray.

"I have certain ideological and even philosophical differences with some social democrats and other leftists so I may not be accepted as leader for all social democrats in Turkey," Ecevit, 62, told Reuters.

Speaking in the modest Ankara apartment where he lives with wife Rahsan, helped by 800,000 lira (630 dollars) a month from the state, he talks of reaching agreement with the SHP.

Opinion polls show the SHP might oust conservative Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party, blamed for 74 per cent annual inflation, if an election were held now.

Ecevit returned from the political wilderness once before after protesting against a 1971 military intervention in domestic politics.

"I disagreed with the leader of my former political party and resigned my post as secretary-general. I thought my political life was over but after 18 months I found myself as prime minister."

His first government, as head of the Republican People's Party, lasted eight months. He returned for one month in 1977 and then 22 months in 1978-79 at a time of weak coalitions and political violence which led to the 1980 coup.

On Cyprus, Ecevit said: "I took a decision (to send troops) in order to prevent the bloodshed between Greeks and Turks, to prevent annexation of the island to Greece."

"Not only has complete peace prevailed since then but also both communities on the island have had the chance to make considerable, remarkable progress and economic development."

The Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, recognised only by Ankara, was declared unilaterally in 1983.

Ecevit said he favoured a bi-communal, federal system for the

future. "But if that is going to be handicapped by the Greeks, the Turks on the island could survive comfortably."

On the question of the Turkish military presence in Cyprus — Turkey says there are up to 19,000 troops, the United Nations puts the figure at some 29,000 — he said only a minor pullout was possible for security reasons.

Ecevit said he stepped down from the DLP leadership this year to halt political attacks. The party won only eight per cent of the overall vote in the general election which returned Ozal to office.

"I believe I should continue my struggle for social democracy. Turkish society is changing very rapidly and the world is changing very rapidly. In the meantime social democracy in Western Europe and in Turkey is also substantially changing."

"I believe I and the Democratic Party movement represent this change (domestically), much more than the SHP," he said.

Ecevit accused the SHP of being elitist. "Among its deputies (in parliament) there is not a single worker, a former artisan," he said.

"In Turkey, 50 per cent of the people are peasants so we (the DLP) deal with the problems of peasant farmers."

Malta seeks European membership

By Anton Ferreira
Reuters

VALLETTA — Maltese Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami completes his first year in office this month determined to take Malta into Europe despite Western fears about his ties with Libya.

"Malta should form part of the European Community, that is our final destination," Fenech Adami told Reuters before the first anniversary of his May 9 Nationalist Party election victory.

The tense elections after a campaign marked by political violence gave the nationalists narrow victory over the Labour Party and ended 16 years of Socialist rule.

Labour won a majority of seats despite polling fewer votes than the nationalists. But under an amendment to the constitution, the nationalists received four extra seats after taking more than 50 per cent of the popular vote.

As part of the deal, the nationalists agreed that the concept of neutrality and non-alignment should be written into the constitution.

A diplomatic source said this could be a problem when Malta

applied for EC membership. "Neutrality you could possibly swallow, but non-alignment and membership of the community just don't go together," he said.

During the labour term the party's then leader Don Mintoff signed treaties with Libya, North Korea and the Soviet Union and repeatedly criticised the United States.

But Fenech Adami said those days were over.

"We are a European country, we are a democratic country, we are a country that respects the rule of law."

Fenech Adami, due to visit Washington in July for a meeting with President Reagan, will be the first Maltese Prime Minister to visit Washington since 1966 and said he was working to improve relations with the United States.

But he said Malta had no intention of cutting its commercial ties with Libya, 200 miles to the South, one of the few countries with which it has a favourable balance of trade.

"It's not a question of loosening ties, it's a question of having the correct relationship," Fenech Adami said.

"Unfortunately in the past the

perception was that we were subservient to Libyan policies."

But diplomatic sources said some Western countries were still concerned at Malta's links with Libya, accused by Washington of supporting international terrorism.

Another diplomatic source cited evidence of Libyan help for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and said Libyans in Malta could be involved in activities of which the government was unaware.

But the diplomats said that despite the concern, Maltese relations with the United States were good and improving.

Fenech Adami said he expected to be asked about the Libyan connection when he visited Washington.

"I'll explain what the situation is... I don't think one can quarrel with this new relationship between Malta and Libya."

Talking about Malta's internal situation Fenech Adami, elected on a national reconciliation platform, said his government had done its best to avoid confrontation, citing the relative industrial peace of his 12 months in office.

But a Labour Party spokesman, international secretary Leo Brincat, disagreed. "Our party's

reaction is one of deep disappointment... (the government's) biggest failure has been in national reconciliation."

Brincat accused the administration of vindictiveness and said it had ousted civil servants loyal to the labour government.

But he acknowledged that at least some members of the government had shown goodwill, especially in dealing with proposals to give the figurehead presidency more powers.

The proposals, intended to turn the presidency into a unifying force between Malta's bitterly divided political groups, grew out of talks between the parties after the 1981 elections.

One of the strongest advocates of non-alignment was Mintoff, whose name is mentioned in any discussion of possible future presidents.

"Dom Mintoff would be a natural choice," said Brincat, although other political observers said the former labour leader had made too many enemies in both parties to stand a chance of winning the strengthened presidency.

"Mintoff certainly hasn't melted over the years," said one diplomat.

Red Cross 125 years old with no danger of becoming redundant

By John Chadwick
Reuters

GENEVA — The international Red Cross is celebrating its 125th birthday with no sign it will ever be out of a job.

The clean-cut wars of 19th-century Europe have been replaced by more shadowy conflicts but the need for an impartial agency to protect the victims of armed struggle has never been more real.

It all started when Swiss businessman Jean-Henry Dunant witnessed in horror the sight of French, Austrian and Sardinian dead and wounded littering the battlefield at Solferino.

In 1862 he published a book, "A memory of Solferino," which pricked the public conscience about the human indignities of war.

Dunant proposed every country should set up a voluntary aid corps to support its army medical units, with all nations adopting certain inviolable principles — later to be enshrined in the Geneva Conventions.

On 29 October 1863, delegates from 16 states attended a ceremony at Geneva's Palais de l'Athenee at which the Red Cross was born. In its 125th Birthday year, the ICRC has the support of 146 countries. Its aims remain virtually unchanged.

As flags with the new familiar emblem — a Red Cross on a white background — fluttered in this Swiss lakeside city on International Red Cross day on Sunday, the centre of attention is now starvation in Africa and conflict in the Israeli-occupied territories.

But at the ICRC's hillside

headquarters close to the European offices of the United Nations, director general Jacques Moreillon said the aims had not basically changed.

All Swiss

"If you have a helpless individual, wounded or imprisoned, who has lost his natural protector, his own state, you have to find a substitute. And if he needs medical attention, you provide it in proportion to his need with no discrimination, irrespective of race or creed," Moreillon said.

Moreillon heads about 550 ICRC staff in Geneva, with almost as many working in the field. They are all Swiss and they say this is the way most people still prefer it.

Since 1919 the ICRC has had the vital support of a multinational parallel organisation, the league of Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies. The league, comprising 145 national Red Cross societies, was set up after World War I at the initiative of Wall Street banker Henry Davison "to anticipate, diminish and relieve the misery produced by disaster and calamity."

Since then, in nearly 1,000 relief actions, it has moved in after earthquakes in the Balkans, floods in China and hurricanes in the Caribbean. It took part in relief work with the ICRC during World War II and the Korean conflict.

Over the years, the ICRC's international role has not always been without controversy. Some critics say it could have done more to help Jews incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps in World War II, a charge it would deny.

OPEN FORUM

To my friend

The following poem was provided by the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief on the occasion of the national week for the mentally retarded in Jordan. The poem was written by the organisation's special teacher Margitta Henningson.

You certainly understand what I say.
Even though you cannot talk.
But I know you so well.
I can read the words from your body.
The words which are your answer.
Your eyes follow my movements.
You smile when I come near you.
You smile and enjoy it when I touch you.
I believe you understand my words.
Even though you do not have any.
I can see when you are happy.
I can see when you are sad.
Your sad eyes, your little tired body.
But your thoughts, your deepest feelings
can never be reached — it hurts.
I try, I try everything I know,
to be as you want me to be.
Rest your little body against me
and feel that I love you.
Hear the words I whisper in your ear,
the warmth of my hand that strokes you gently.
I believe you understand all of this.
I know it, even though your language is
without words.

NATO governments say Danish role in alliance uncertain

By Robert Burns
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Denmark's NATO allies expressed a mixture of mild disappointment and relief Wednesday at the muted outcome of a Danish election widely seen as a test of its loyalty to the Western alliance.

"It's regrettable," said Norway's Foreign Minister, Torvald Stoltenberg, "that the Danish election failed to clarify" the issue that triggered the vote: whether to tighten enforcement of a long-standing ban on the presence of nuclear weapons in Denmark in peacetime.

"Nothing has been decided," said Ton Frimking, a member of the Dutch parliament and president of the North Atlantic Assembly, a NATO support organisation.

The United States, Britain and the Brussels-based leadership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation had sharply criticised the passage last month of a Danish parliamentary resolution requiring the government to officially notify visiting warships of the nuclear arms ban.

Depending on how it might be implemented, the resolution could require captains of NATO ships to say whether they are carrying nuclear arms. In the past, Denmark had simply assumed that visitors knew the rule.

As a matter of policy, the United States and Britain refuse to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons on their ships. Passage of the resolution prompted NATO to shift a nuclear policy review conference from Denmark to Belgium. Britain called off royal navy port visits.

In the election Tuesday, Prime Minister Poul Schluter's Minority Centre-Right Coalition — which opposed the resolution — emerged with the same number of seats as before the vote. The two main Socialist parties that favoured the resolution lost two of their 81 seats.

Thus both the government and the opposition Socialist bloc were denied a clear majority.

NATO headquarters and some European governments, including Belgium, Spain and Italy, declined early comment on the election results, saying the voting was too fragmented to give a clear picture of how and whether the Danish resolution might be implemented. Schluter submitted his res-

ignation to Queen Margrethe II on Tuesday as expected and said negotiations to form a new government would begin immediately.

Reaction to the vote was swift in Norway, which also has a long-standing ban on the presence of nuclear weapons on its soil in peacetime. Norway has avoided a confrontation on the issue by simply reminding allies of the non-nuclear rule during diplomatic exchanges prior to a port call.

Kaare Willoch, conservative chairman of the Norwegian parliament's foreign affairs committee, stressed the mild setback suffered by the two main Danish Socialist parties that support the resolution.

"It's gratifying that the parties which created uncertainty about Denmark's loyalty toward NATO suffered election setbacks and likewise that the parties which defended this loyalty jointly advanced," he said.

Frimking, the Dutch legislator, also sought to cast the result in a positive light.

"It's clear that Denmark is not running out of NATO," he said. "We need Denmark, and I'm happy they did not decide in a more negative way."

Schluter had sought to portray the election as a verdict on Denmark's allegiance to NATO, but political analysts said the outcome was unlikely to change the level of allied uncertainty about Denmark's role.

"I don't think (Denmark's) membership as such is put into question," Peter Corterier, the West German Secretary General of the North Atlantic Assembly, said before the election results were final.

"It's a question of whether Denmark can play a meaningful role in the alliance and whether it's prepared to cooperate with the allies in such a way that (NATO) plans... for the defence of Denmark can be implemented," Corterier said in an interview.

Denmark's low-lying peninsula and islands command the approaches to the Baltic Sea, a vital choke point for Soviet access to the North Sea and the Atlantic. NATO strategists consider Denmark a key supply link in case of invasion from the east.

Besides its non-nuclear policy, the Danish government has been widely criticised in NATO for its relatively small level of defence spending.

كذلك من اجل

FROM THE WORLD'S PRESS

Detentions fuel Palestinian nationalism

HEBRON — When Mohammad — not his real name — was arrested and sent four months ago to Israel's Kitzor prison (better known as Ansar 3) he was just another callow teenager apprehended for throwing stones at a passing Israeli jeep.

Today, back home in his West Bank refugee camp, Mohammad is something of a local hero. He is more mature, politically sophisticated, and committed to the five-month Palestinian uprising against Israel's 21-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel has detained thousands of Palestinians since December to break the back of the uprising. But as even some Israeli officials concede, the prison experience, in many cases, has probably had the unintended reverse effect of perpetuating the uprising by becoming a "training school" for it.

In the crowded cells of dozens of Israeli prisons and detention centres, young men like Mohammad are making the contacts, learning the radical politics, and gaining the enhanced local prestige that have made them leaders of the uprising. "I came out (of prison) with more commitment," says the 18-year-old Mohammad, who, like others interviewed, asked not to be named. "I'm more ready to become politically involved — and more ready to take risks."

"I've gained more respect (in other's eyes) based on greater exposure and knowledge," he adds. The brief period in custody has made him something of a celebrity among the youngsters and teenagers who congregate around him as he makes his rounds of the camp. Even the elders seem deferential, as if to the first college graduate in a family of grade-school dropouts — The Christian Science Monitor.

Israel jails 2 for anti-SLA attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A military court sentenced two Lebanese guerrillas for acts committed against an Israeli-armed, Christian-led militia in Lebanon on grounds that their acts harmed Israeli security.

Court sources said the case against Kassem Khameis and Ismail Ali Zayan, both 19-year-old Shiite members of the Iranian-influenced Hizbollah, was the first in which Israel tried Lebanese guerrillas for attacks on Lebanese rather than Israeli targets.

Commenting on the sentences handed down by military court in Lod, Mordechai Kremnitzer, professor of criminal law at Hebrew University, said in a telephone interview that the ruling "is an extension" of Israeli jurisprudence to acts against the security of the state committed abroad.

The guerrillas were turned over to Israel by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), which wounded and captured them in a clash near their native village of Qabriha in South Lebanon last June.

Col. Aharon Alperin, who presided over the Lod case, told the court, "We must consider the SLA as an important factor in guarding the security of our northern settlements. Any attack on this body must be considered as an attack against Israel's security" — The Washington Post.



DETENTIONS ON THE RISE: Israeli territories. The Israeli army has detained at least soldiers blindfold an arrested Palestinian in the 8,000 Palestinians, including women and teenagers, Gaza Strip prior to taking him to one of the in its effort to quell the 23-week-old Palestinian newly-set up detention centres in the occupied uprising.

Foreigners held after Khartoum attacks

KHARTOUM (R) — Authorities have detained many foreigners for questioning after twin attacks that killed seven people at a Khartoum hotel and club, a Sudanese minister said Tuesday.

Information Minister Abdullah Muhammad Ahmed said three

men with Lebanese passports arrested shortly after the raids on the Acropole Hotel and the Sudan Club Sunday insisted they were not involved.

A British family of four, a British teacher and two Sudanese were killed when an explosion

tore through the dining room of the hotel while at least two gunmen simultaneously opened fire at the club.

Ahmad, a member of a Sudan's new government sworn in just before the raids, said the explosives planted at the Acropole detonated earlier than planned so a massacre had been avoided.

The blast hit the dining room minutes before it was usually packed with guests.

In London, the Foreign Office advised Britons Tuesday to defer their visits to Khartoum until the situation clarified.

Official sources in the Sudanese capital said the foreigners held for questioning included Syrians and Palestinians.

Ahmad told Sudanese newspaper editors the three Lebanese suspects arrived in Khartoum from West Germany, after picking up Sudanese visas in Kuwait. Two of them are believed to be teenagers.

He said documents found at a Khartoum flat they rented showed they were apparently doing business in Sudan. An official statement said Monday they entered the country posing as businessmen.

The statement said that police had material evidence and eyewitness accounts linking the three men to the twin attacks.

There were no claims of responsibility.

Members of the Sudan Club are British or Commonwealth citizens but it is also frequented by diplomats and other expatriates. The Acropole is popular with foreign relief workers and journalists.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi Tuesday accused Sudan's foreign enemies of bringing what he called terrorism and their rivalries to Khartoum. He called for tighter security.

In a radio broadcast marking Eid Al Fitr, Mahdi said foreign enemies were abusing Sudan's freedoms.

Mujahedeen call for Iran's ouster from U.N.

BAGHDAD (R) — The main Iranian opposition has called for Iran to be expelled from the United Nations and all international organisations, according to the text of a speech telecast to Reuters.

Masoud Rajavi, leader of the Baghdad-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, said in the speech that seats held by Tehran in such bodies should be allocated to the Iranian National Resistance Council, which Rajavi heads.

"Pinning hopes on the (Ayatol-

lah Ruhollah) Khomeini regime, seeking an alternative within it, hoping for a military coup d'état... are absolutely inconceivable," Rajavi said.

He made the speech at one of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq bases along the 1,180-kilometre Iran-Iraq warfront from which the group carries out attacks inside Iran.

The resistance council groups Iranians opposed to Khomeini and seeking to overthrow the Tehran government.

Hawke accuses Libya of involvement in Vanuatu

CANBERRA (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke Wednesday accused Libya of involvement in the South Pacific state of Vanuatu where one person was killed in a riot earlier this week.

"There is no doubt about a Libyan connection in Vanuatu," said Hawke, who ordered the riot gear to be rushed to the capital Port Vila Tuesday after a request from Prime Minister Walter Lini.

Hawke did not describe any evidence of Libya's alleged involvement.

"Australia can't stand idly by if there are attempts to undermine by non-democratic process that government," Hawke added.

Vanuatu established diplomatic ties with Libya in 1986 but Lini has delayed the establishment of a diplomatic mission after complaints by Western nations, including Australia.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

King renews call for Arab deployment force

(Continued from page 1)

rebellion which followed 20 years of oppression, injustice, cruelty and inhuman practices at a time when other countries speak about human rights.

"Since the Palestinian people are fighting for their rights and clinging to their homeland they will ultimately regain them despite the military force of the Israeli enemy, and Jordan will continue to back the Palestinian people's endeavours for achieving this goal," the King said.

Jordan will also seek to convene an international peace conference to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions to

find a lasting and honourable settlement to the Palestinian problem, the King said. Jordan, he added, has no other ambition but to help the Palestinian people to regain their rights in their homeland. The Palestinians should represent themselves at any negotiations for a peaceful settlement, he said.

"The Palestinian people enjoy full rights in the Kingdom on equal footing with all other people living in the East Bank, but at the same time they retain their rights in their Palestinian land — rights which Jordan will help them regain with all its might," the King said.

But in the meantime, he said,

Jordan, with its Palestinian and Jordanian people, will continue to struggle in defence of the homeland and will continue to extend backing for the kinsmen in the occupied Arab lands.

The King earlier attended prayers at the main mosque in Amman and heard a sermon calling for Arab unity in the face of the common challenges.

After the prayers, the King met with worshippers who offered him good wishes on the occasion. Several local notables delivered speeches on the occasion and Upper House Parliament member Mohammad Odeh presented the King with a sword as a token gift commemorating the visit.

The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior officials.

On the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from kings and heads of state of Arab and friendly states. The King also received two telephone calls from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with whom he exchanged wishes on the occasion.

The King also received a phone call from King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia congratulating him on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr. During the call, the two monarchs also exchanged views on current Arab issues.

Amal-Hizbollah war continues

(Continued from page 1)

although it was trying to achieve this peacefully.

Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, Syria's chief military coordinator in Lebanon, told reporters he doubted the fighting could be ended by political solutions.

He said Syria was taking its own decisions but had decided to delay sending in its troops to allow a greater chance for a negotiated settlement.

Political observers said Syria's prestige in Lebanon would be damaged if it went back on its decision to send in troops.

Besharati also predicted Wednesday that the problem of foreign hostages in Lebanon would be "solved" if the Amal-Hizbollah fighting was brought to an end.

"The case of kidnapping (foreigners) in Lebanon is part of the crisis which Lebanon is passing through. I believe that if we could end the state of war currently prevailing, then definitely the other case would be solved too," Besharati said without further elaboration.

He denied reports that some of the hostages — who include 10 Americans, three Britons, a West German, an Irishman, an Italian, an Indian and an Egyptian — had been taken to the Iranian embassy.

Lebanese analysts said Syria and Iran were determined not to

jeopardise their relations for the sake of their Lebanese allies and for this reason the troops were still waiting.

But Kanaan said Syria would not allow the situation to continue as it was.

"When Syria decided to deploy it was to restore order and there is still a need for a force to restore order. The Iranians know that Syria is the basic force to stop any such conflict in Lebanon," he said.

France to restore ties with Iran

(Continued from page 1)

men's release or made any concessions, his success fuelled speculation that the right-wing leader had made a deal with Iran to help his election bid.

Rocard said his government had found no official document spelling out France's commitment to restore diplomatic links with Iran, but stressed this had been at the centre of the negotiations on the release of the French hostages.

Immediately after the return of the three hostages, a French government spokesman said Paris had repaid a second instalment of an old \$1 billion loan that had been one of the major bones of contention between the two countries since 1979.

Peres sees possible Soviet move

(Continued from page 1)

He said Tuesday after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that President Reagan would discuss Middle East peace efforts with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Moscow summit May 29-June 2.

Shultz will fly to the Middle East immediately after the summit to press again the U.S. peace plan, which calls for an international conference leading to direct Arab-Israeli talks on a permanent settlement and for limited Palestinian "self-rule" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Peres favours an international peace conference, but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir firmly opposes such a meeting.

Peres did not specify in the television interview Wednesday what Soviet moves he expected but suggested Moscow might respond to U.S. and Israeli insistence that an international conference should not force a peace proposal of its own on Israel and the Arabs.

"If they (the Soviet Union) won't try to impose a solution or to interfere in our negotiations, yes, why not (involve) Moscow in the peace process?" Peres said. "On the other hand, if there will be the slightest attempt to try to teach us a lesson or impose a solution, I think all parties will refuse," he said.

"The Russians recently did some very constructive positions and I hope they will do it this time again," he added.

Peres was interviewed from Toronto, Canada, the next stop in his North America trip.

Meanwhile, a senior Israeli official sought to deflect an apparent U.S. attack on Shamir Wednesday, saying Reagan's spokesman meant his criticism for Arab leaders.

Israeli media interpreted a statement by White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater condemning "leaders who are negative, consistently reject new ideas, and fail to exploit realistic opportunities to bring about negotiations," as a rebuke to Shamir, although he was not named.

The statement followed Tuesday's talks between Reagan and Peres.

Fitzwater said Peres was "creative and has the courage and wisdom to say yes when real opportunities arise."

He made no mention of Israel's prime minister but said those leaders who made progress impossible "will have to answer to their own people for the suffering that will inevitably result."

Meeting reporters later after a working lunch at the State Department, Shultz said the United States was committed to pursuing Middle East peace despite slim chances of success.

Soviet-Egyptian talks on Mideast to precede superpower summit

MOSCOW (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid arrives in Moscow Thursday for talks aimed at giving a boost to the Middle East peace process ahead of the Moscow superpower summit.

With the Soviet Union showing new flexibility on solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Egypt — the only Arab state in the region to have diplomatic links with Israel — is strategically placed to negotiate with Kremlin leaders.

Abdul Meguid's visit to Moscow is the first by an Egyptian foreign minister since the 1970s, when Cairo strengthened ties with the United States. But Soviet-Egyptian relations have steadily improved since Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev took office in March 1985.

"It is in our mutual interests to have these contacts, especially in the peace process at this point and at a time when the superpowers are establishing what seems to be a long-term relationship," an Egyptian diplomat said.

He said the Egyptian and Soviet positions on a solution to the Middle East conflict overlapped in many respects, and the talks could take understanding one step further.

Abdul Meguid, who also serves as a deputy prime minister, will meet Soviet foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Friday. Talks with Gorbachev are also possible but have not yet been confirmed.

His visit follows signs of movement on a Middle East solution including a reported Soviet shift to acceptance of the idea that an international peace conference would not be empowered to impose a settlement on the region.

In the two days prior to Abdul Meguid's arrival, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has been meeting U.S. Secretary of State

George Shultz to compare notes on the Middle East. Diplomatic sources in Moscow said the flurry of activity could presage progress when Gorbachev meets U.S. president Ronald Reagan in Moscow May 29-June 2.

The Soviet Union and Egypt agree in backing a Middle East peace conference to be attended by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all interested parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The United States and Israel reject PLO participation and, while Peres supports the idea of a conference, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes it.

Arab analysts noted, however, that Moscow had made another shift in its position when PLO leader Yasser Arafat visited the Soviet Union last month.

A Soviet statement referred to Israeli withdrawal from "occupied territories" instead of from "all the occupied territories" in what was interpreted as a hint to Israel.

Peres acknowledged Soviet flexibility on the conference plan last week after meeting a Communist Party official from Moscow at a Socialist International conference in Madrid.

The Kremlin, which broke off diplomatic ties with Israel during the 1967 war, has gradually been renewing contacts.

Abdul Meguid will be carrying a message to Gorbachev from

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, under whose leadership the two countries ended the chill in their relations which began when Egypt expelled 17,000 Soviet advisers in 1972.

Relations improved further last year when the Soviet Union rescheduled Cairo's \$3 billion military debt.

During this week's talks, the two countries plan to sign an economic and scientific cooperation agreement which senior Egyptian diplomats say will open a new page in relations.

Polisario reports attack

ALGIERS (R) — Polisario guerrillas fighting for control of the Western Sahara attacked Moroccan territory Monday night killing 10 Moroccan soldiers, a guerrilla communiqué said Wednesday.

The communiqué published by the official Algerian news agency APS said the guerrillas attacked positions near the south Moroccan town of Fom Al Hassan north of the Oued Draa.

The guerrillas occupied Moroccan positions in the area and forced defenders to flee. They "destroyed a large quantity of enemy material and recovered four rifles, a radio transmitter and numerous important military documents," the communiqué said.

The attack, which took place on the eve of the Eid Al Fitr, was part of the "intensification of the offensive aimed at the complete liberation of the Saharan territory," it added.

The Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony, is located about 180 kilometres south of the scene of the attack in the foothills of the Anti-Atlas mountains.

Morocco has not confirmed the attack, on previous occasions when localities north of the Oued Draa have been attacked. King Hassan has warned Algeria that Moroccan forces would exercise the right of "hot pursuit" if the attacks were repeated.

Only two days ago the two countries announced the restoration of diplomatic relations which Rabat severed over 12 years ago when Algeria began backing Polisario guerrillas.

Diplomats said the attack was likely to put a heavy strain on these ties just when they appeared to be on the mend.

It is the first time in several years that the Polisario has attacked undisputed Moroccan territory but in a communiqué published Monday, the Polisario said it attacked a Moroccan outpost near Tichla on the southern edge of the Western Sahara close to the Mauritanian frontier. It gave no casualty figures.

According to Moroccan military sources, attacks north of the Draa are possible only from Algerian territory in the area around the oasis town of Tindouf where the Polisario has its main bases.

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Jordan maintains economic development momentum

The following is the first of a two-part economic review reprinted from the 1987 annual report of Jordan's Industrial Development Bank. Part II will appear in Saturday's issue.

AMMAN — Preliminary data indicates that gross domestic product (GDP) in 1987 increased by three per cent over 1986. The government continued during the year to take necessary measures and adopt policies to encourage domestic investment, increase local production and exports, curtail imports and attract Arab and foreign investments in order to keep up development momentum of the Kingdom.

trend of certain economic indicators, the Jordan economy continued to be influenced by the prevailing conditions in the region. This calls for more determination and coordination of private and public sector's efforts to take necessary remedial measures and get past the stringent conditions overshadowing the Jordan economy.

Industrial production

Income from industrial sector

Table No. II
Index Number of Industrial production

1970 = 100

Products	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Food items	117.3	136.8	142.2	97.9	102.8
Soft drinks	65.7	86.9	78.1	69.0	77.3
Fodder	119.1	118.9	90.3	87.8	85.7
Cigarettes and Matches	119.6	131.8	107.7	100.1	125.9
Clothes and Textiles	96.3	126.4	167.3	148.2	167.3
Footwear and Leather	104.7	107.0	108.7	118.7	113.6
Plastic and Sponge	99.6	92.6	89.1	114.1	107.8
CHEMICALS					
General	139.9	193.2	184.5	217.3	226.8
Pharmaceutical	223.8	291.3	341.1	339.2	377.1
Paints	122.8	122.8	113.7	95.6	105.9
Detergents and Soap	86.1	149.8	98.5	175.3	164.1
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS					
General	176.2	177.8	191.3	183.2	201.6
Iron	173.2	139.1	165.5	173.7	183.3
Cement	203.6	325.1	324.6	287.9	380.5
Wood Products	103.3	134.6	128.4	65.0	36.9
Others	212.8	205.8	155.6	115.0	86.9
Petroleum Products	144.2	144.9	141.1	134.2	140.0
Phosphate	167.8	219.7	214.6	221.0	242.1
Paper and Cardboard	111.7	160.8	200.0	170.5	245.3
Batteries	49.7	66.4	65.8	72.3	73.3
Electricity	207.1	240.6	263.5	232.7	381.8
Over-all Index	150.9	181.2	185.2	187.8	205.2
% change	4.9	20.1	2.2	1.4	9.26

Source: Monthly Statistical Bulletin - Central Bank of Jordan.

British banks cut interest rates

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson have settled their differences over the pound and British banks cut interest rates in a concerted move to check a surge in sterling.

In one of the most eagerly-awaited parliamentary appearances of her nine years in office, Thatcher Tuesday defused a cabinet dispute over exchange rate policy which she had largely caused herself.

"The chancellor and I entirely agree that we must maintain a firm monetary policy and a downwards pull on inflation," she told the House of Commons in a carefully-worded reply to opposition leader Neil Kinnock.

She added that their unanimity on economic policy was total. Her endorsement was widely

hailed as a victory for Lawson, who has long sought to keep the value of sterling at around three Deutschmarks.

For two months as it shot up to just under 3.20 marks, Thatcher said the markets must set its value as a buoyant economy and relatively high interest rates attracted investors.

After a late night chat between the two, the markets were told that Lawson's view had prevailed when the Bank of England suddenly cut key interest rates half a point to 7.5 per cent.

The nation's big five main street banks quickly followed suit and sterling dropped to end the day a pfennig down at 3.1744 marks and more than two cents down at \$1.8635.

Only last week, Thatcher refused to declare she was in complete agreement over exchange

rate policy with her powerful chancellor, regarded by many ruling Conservatives as the architect of last year's general election success.

Many expressed fears that the rift, Lawson's exchange rate policy versus Thatcher's fight against inflation, would harm the government and the economy and could lead to his resignation.

"Lawson's now back in the driving seat as far as exchange rate policy is concerned," said David Owen, economist with Kleinwort Greaves Securities.

Bill Martin, chief economist at Phillips and Drew, said it now seemed currency stability had "taken precedence over getting inflation under control."

London's Evening Standard newspaper trumpeted in a front-page headline: "Triumph for Lawson."

materials, paper products and other manufacturing industries.

During 1987, eighteen projects were granted total exemptions and 13 projects were granted partial exemptions. Total value of fixed assets exempted for all these projects amounts to JD 14.77 million.

Industrial production increased during 1987. Production of phosphate increased by 9.5 per cent, potash by 9.2 per cent, fertilizers by 9.6 per cent, cement by 32.1 per cent, metallic pipes by 48.0 per cent, electric power by 18.0 per cent.

Table No. 1 shows production of major industries for the period from 1983 to 1987.

Table No. II shows changes in the index of industrial production during 1983-1987. The overall index increased from 187.8 in 1986 to 205.2 in 1987.

The number of projects which previously obtained loans from the IDB and commenced production during 1987 were eight projects. Among these projects were steel wool, metal fabrication, beverages, table salt, ice skating ring and others.

Loans granted to the above projects amounted to JD 0.87 million while their total cost amounted to JD 2.1 million.

Labour force in Jordan during 1987 totalled (700) thousand workers of which 20 per cent were guest workers with 85 per cent being Arab nationals. Unemployment rate was estimated at eight per cent.

Out of the total labour force 80 thousand labourers were employed in the industrial sector.

To meet the demand for skilled manpower, the Vocational Training Corporation continued offering training courses in various skills such as maintenance, lathe, welding, plumbing, electrical installations, etc. Eleven thousand workers participated in these courses.

Exploration and mining

The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) continued its efforts to explore oil reserves in the Kingdom.

During 1987 three new wells were drilled and a third agreement with an international company for oil exploration was signed. Further exploration work was carried out to determine natural gas reserves in Reisha area for utilisation in electricity generation.

The second stage of feasibility studies for utilising oil shale in the Kingdom was completed. Further studies were carried out for exploration of feldspar, sulphur and potash in the southern part of the Kingdom.

Phosphate production increased during 1987 to 6.8 million tons or by 8.8 per cent compared with 1986.

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Tourism

Non-Arab arrivals were marginally higher in 1987 than in the previous year, and hotel occupancy rate maintained the same low level as of 1986. Number of classified hotels totalled 92 in 1987 with a capacity of 5,704 rooms or 10,635 beds.

A number of tourism projects is under construction, such as development and renovation of Petra rest house and antiquities' sites.

The first stage of Ma'in Spa project was completed and facilities constructed are operational. The project now provides services for therapeutic tourism under international medical supervision, utilising mineral water available at site.

The IDB approved during 1987 seven loans totalling 0.23 million for establishing restaurants, an ice skating ring and recreational centre in Amman and Irbid.

OECD ministers begin annual economic check-up

PARIS (R) — Ministers from 24 non-communist industrial nations began annual talks on the world economy in Paris Wednesday buoyed by much improved U.S. trade figures but still concerned over the longer-term outlook.

The foreign and economic affairs ministers gathered at the Paris headquarters of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for two days of talks.

"The trade figures (for March) were very good. Things are getting better not only in the United States but also regarding trade imbalances in Japan and Europe," West German Economic Minister Martin Bangemann said on arrival.

The United States Tuesday reported a dramatic narrowing of its trade deficit to \$9.75 billion in March from \$13.8 billion in the previous month.

Japan this week also reported a continuing fall in its trade surplus.

Dutch Economic Affairs Minister Rudolph De Korte, in a cooler assessment, said: "It was a hopeful sign but it doesn't mean that the U.S. can stop efforts to cut its deficits. The problem is not the export but the import figures, they are the key to the issue."

U.S. exports jumped by 23 per cent in March to a record \$29 billion, but imports also rose, by 3.6 per cent, to \$8.7 billion.

Economists say continuing high demand for foreign goods points

Table No. I
Production of Major Industries

Product	Unit	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	% of change 86-87
Phosphate	000's Tons	4745.5	6213.1	6067.1	6249.2	6845.7	9.5
Potash	000's Tons	282.8	486.0	908.2	1102.0	1203.2	9.2
Fodder	000's Tons	60.9	61.2	45.9	44.6	43.7	(2.0)
Cigarettes	Mill. Cig.	4067.4	4341.9	3538.1	3327.7	4000.4	20.2
Textiles	000's yards	1130.6	1314.5	2249.0	2249.2	1958.0	(12.9)
Spinning	Tons	1151.8	1831.1	1660.3	987.0	2179.8	120.1
Upper leather	000's sq.ft	2334.4	2145.7	1937.8	2393.1	2140.6	10.5
Sole leather and wool	000's Tons	37.2	43.9	29.3	18.1	34.4	90.1
Cement	000's Tons	301.6	541.0	510.5	551.1	604.0	9.6
Chemical acids	000's Tons	632.5	1194.6	1007.6	1024.8	1103.2	7.6
Detergents	000's Tons	12.7	25.5	15.0	28.1	25.9	(7.8)
Fertilizers	000's Tons	1269.0	2026.3	2022.9	1794.7	2371.6	32.1
Iron	000's Tons	209.9	164.9	198.4	209.6	217.0	3.8
Metallic pipes	000's Tons	12.9	14.7	14.2	12.5	18.5	48.0
Petroleum Products	000's Tons	2499.0	2510.9	2423.9	2257.1	2404.5	5.5
Paper and Cardboard	000's Tons	11.9	18.0	21.1	15.1	20.5	35.8
Liquid batteries	000's Units	36.5	50.1	49.6	55.7	54.4	(2.3)
Electricity	Mill KWH	1699.9	1967.0	2154.4	2646.8	3122.2	18.0

Source: Monthly Statistical Bulletin - Central Bank of Jordan.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8575/85	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2370/80	Canadian dollar
	1.7040/47	Deutschmarks
	1.9091/96	Dutch guilders
	1.4212/22	Swiss francs
	35.57/60	Belgian francs
	5.7690/7720	French francs
	1264/1265	Italian lire
	125.45/55	Japanese yen
	5.9260/9310	Swedish crowns
	6.2050/2100	Norwegian crowns
	6.5200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	452.40/452.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market closed strongly higher on news of further good local profits and Australia's much improved current account deficit. The All Ordinaries Index rose 14.8 to 1,453.4.

TOKYO — Share prices closed easier on rekindled concern over a possible rise in U.S. interest rates and by Wall Street's decline overnight. The Nikkei Index lost 52.40 points, 0.19 per cent, to close at 27,767.58.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed barely changed in thin and directionless trading. The Hang Seng Index was down 0.31 of a point at 2,533.26.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed marginally higher on selective buying and some bargain-hunting, despite Wall Street's 21-point overnight fall and an easier Tokyo market. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 4.35 to 975.01.

BOMBAY — Market closed.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended mostly lower in quiet trading as worries about a possible rise in world interest rates left investors sidelined despite the higher dollar. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, fell 7.2 to 1,339.1.

ZURICH — Prices closed little changed on low turnover, with the market failing to react to the firmer dollar or the lower overnight Wall Street close. The All-Share Swiss Index was down 2.9 at 806.0.

PARIS — Shares opened the floor session 1.03 per cent lower in calm, thin trading, with operators awaiting the early trend on Wall Street for new direction.

LONDON — Share prices in late trading were moving in line with Wall Street's fluctuations and continued lower across a broad front. At 1430 GMT, the FTSE 100 was down 13.5 at 1,775.7.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks were lower in morning trading but Blue Chips recouped some earlier losses. The Dow fell two to 1,984.

Australia's trade position shows dramatic improvement

SYDNEY (R) — A dramatic improvement in Australia's trade position provided a boost to financial markets, pushing the Australian dollar nearly a U.S. cent higher Wednesday.

Official statistics released Wednesday showed the deficit in the current account, measuring trade in goods and services, fell sharply to 396 million dollars (\$305 million) in April from 1.09 billion (\$839 million) the previous month.

Market analysts warned the figure was probably an aberration. "But it is a very positive sign and augured well for the economy," Lloyds Bank chief economist Warren Bird told Reuters.

Economists agreed that the economy was making a steady recovery in response to Treasurer Paul Keating's tough spending cuts and in the wake of high prices for Australian commodities such as gold, wool and minerals.

The latest trade statistics would help Keating maintain a firm grip on the economy when he presents his mini-budget on May 25, they said.

"He will be able to point to his tough fiscal policy last year which obviously is paying dividends," Bird said.

Friday 20 May

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3) Who's That Girl

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PLAZA

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2) Action Jackson
3) Who's That Girl

Performances: 3:30, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Kenyan wins 10K race

CLEVELAND (AP) — Attempting to lead all the way proved the right strategy for Kenya's Sam Ngatia in the Revco-Cleveland 10K Sunday, but was disastrous for Emilio Rios of Portugal in the marathon.

Ngatia, who timed 28:53 to win by three feet (one metre) over Jon Sinclair of Fort Collins, Colorado, withstood three challenges by Sinclair in the final 200 yards (metres). Sinclair had run on Ngatia's heels over the final five miles (eight kilometres) after Adam Hoyle rabbitied the lead pack through a 4-minute, 30-second first mile (1 1/2 kilometre). "It's tough to lead all the way, but somebody's got to do it," said Ngatia, who fought a headwind much of the race. "I was very confident. I'm in great form right now, and it was my day."

"I kept thinking be (Ngatia) was running a dumb race," said Sinclair, who has now finished second in the last three Revco 10K. "Nobody wants to be the sucker and lead into the wind, but he ran a great race today."

Rios built a huge lead in the early miles (kilometres) of the marathon before faltering and being passed in the final two

miles (three kilometres), first by winner Pablo "Charlie" Vigil of Alamosa, Colorado, and then Louis Kenny of Johnson City, Tennessee. Vigil, who also won the Revco Marathon in 1980 and 1981, clocked 2:19:59.

After 15 miles (24 kilometres), Rios was 30 seconds ahead of Tony Sandoval's course record 2:14:36, but he experienced side cramps and was forced to walk several times.

Audain wins women's race
New Zealand's Anne Audain, a four-time Olympian, easily won her fifth Revco 10K in 33:05. Patricia Bullinger of Arlington, Virginia was a distant second in 35:51. Audain was on pace to break her own course record of 31:59 until turning back into the wind at the halfway point.

"It seems like every year I'm on course record here, and then the wind comes off Lake Erie," said Audain.

Gloria Ramirez of Mexico City won the women's marathon in 2:41:57. Ramirez was not challenged after the early miles of the race. Finishing second was Silvana Cucchiotti of Saluzzo, Italy in 2:43:18.

U.S. coastguard decides not to investigate Conner's dunking

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — The U.S. coast guard decided Tuesday not to investigate how possibly the world's best known yachtsman Dennis Conner came to capsize his Catamaran and spend 20 minutes dog paddling.

Conner, winner of the America's Cup, and his five-man crew escaped injury Sunday after they were dumped into San Diego Bay during training.

They were practicing in the modified Catamaran they were using to train for the up-coming America's Cup defence when the craft tipped on its side and lay sprawled in thick mud for several hours. The 40-foot Catamaran was heading out of the basin in light to moderate winds when it flipped, tossing the six men into the 58-degree water.

Extra crew weight and modifications of the mast — it was raised 18 feet to 81 feet — to give the craft more of the sailing characteristics Conner expects to get from his soon-to-be launched, 60-foot America's Cup defender — contributed to the mishap.

"It just suddenly went over," said one witness. "Conner and his crew went flying."

"There's nothing to stop a boater from capsizing his catamaran on the bay, that's part of sailing when a mistake is made, U.S. coast guard chief Scott Inbody told Reuters.

Inbody said the coast guard, charged with investigating boating mishaps, would have been interested in finding out about the mishap at the time in order to determine if the vessel was a "hazard to navigation."

"I guess they didn't want further publicity," Inbody said. "It was righted and just sailed away."

The scene took place near the San Diego Yacht Club, where Conner had just been named "yachtsman of the year" for the sixth consecutive year.

"I go from being named 'yachtsman of the year' to being the goat of the day," quipped Conner when he reached shore.

Conner, who is not a proficient swimmer, dog-paddled for 20 minutes to the safety of the dock, just 45 feet away (15 yards) away.

It took almost six hours to right the vessel.

Lesleigh Green, spokeswoman for Conner's Stars and Stripes Syndicate, said Conner was not treating the accident as a great disaster.

"He's treating it light-heartedly in fact," said Green.

Green said Conner and crew have had two other accidents while attempting to adjust to the new boats.

"They are testing them to the limit to see what kind of stress they can take," she said, adding that the adjustments to the catamaran made the vessels unstable.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

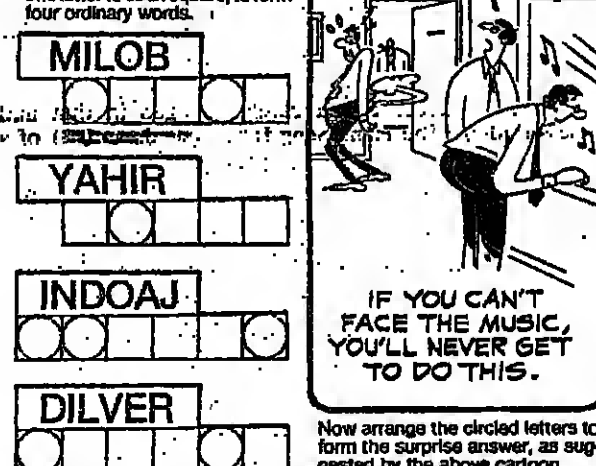


"My diet counselor told me to go for a walk every morning before breakfast. Today I walked to Donut World."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumble: LINEN YIELD SUCKLE GENDER

Answer: What the homicidal monster does before he gets out of the car—KILLS THE ENGINE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

A MATTER OF RESTRICTED CHOICE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ A 8 7 4
♦ 2 3 3
♣ K Q J 7 4

WEST
♠ 9
♥ 10 9 6 5 3
♦ A 10 7 4 2
♣ 8 5

EAST
♠ A Q 8 7
♥ K Q 2
♦ 9 6
♣ 10 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 10 6 4 3 2
♥ J
♦ K 5
♣ A 9

The bidding:
North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

The Principle of Restricted Choice states that if a player has a choice of cards to play, he will sometimes play one, sometimes the other. Therefore, if he plays out card, he is unlikely to hold the other.

In simple terms, mathematically a player is more apt to hold one specific card than two specific cards. Declarer put that principle in work to make his game.

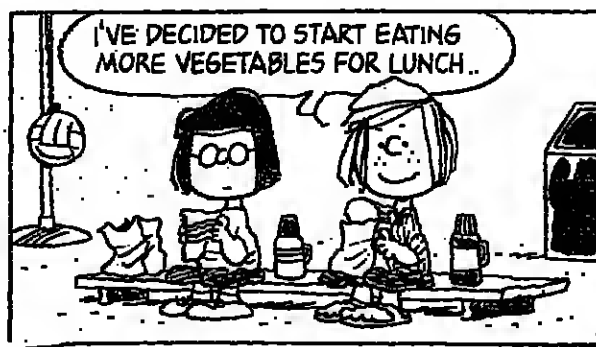
Note South's choice of four spades at his second turn. Since he had originally responded one spade, he was now showing a game-going hand with a self-sufficient spade suit, and his partner was free to bid on if his hand warranted.

West attacked with the top of his heart sequence. Declarer won with dummy's ace and led a trump to the ten, and West's nine caused declarer to reflect. If it was a falsecard from 9-8, declarer could simply continue with a trump to hold his losers to two trumps and the ace of diamonds. But if the nine was a singleton, declarer was in danger of losing three trump tricks. Applying the Rule of Restricted Choice, declarer decided to believe the nine to be a singleton.

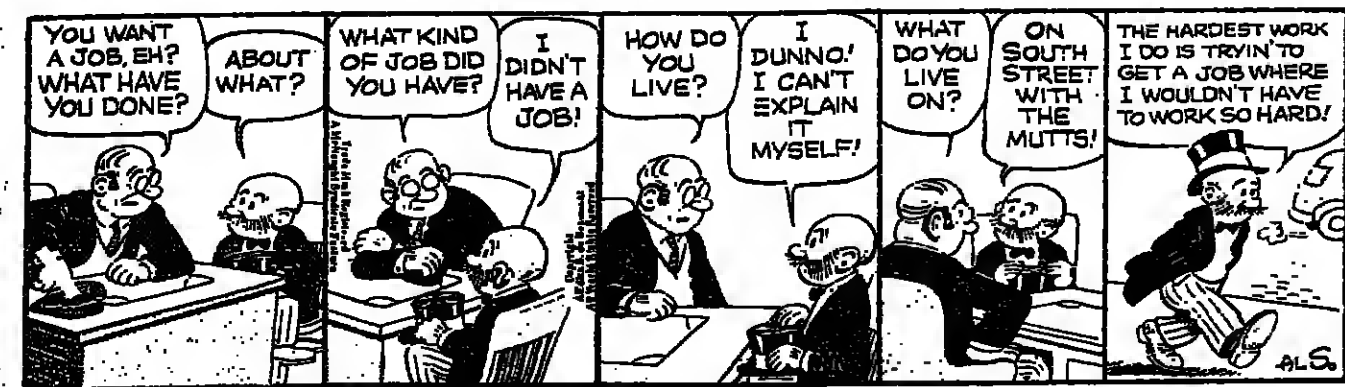
He cashed four rounds of clubs, discarding two diamonds from hand, then continued with the table's last club. East was faced with a Hobson's Choice. He either could refuse to ruff, in which case declarer would stuff his last diamond to hold his losers to three trump tricks, or else East could ruff and allow declarer to overruff, permitting declarer to limit his losses to two trump tricks and a diamond. Either way, South was home.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



McEnroe gets seeding as Connors, Mecir drop out

PARIS (R) — Former world number one John McEnroe of the United States Wednesday gained the 16th and last seeded place in the draw for the French Open after compatriot Jimmy Connors and Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia pulled out.

McEnroe dropped from 14th to 19th place in the world computer rankings issued this week and looked like being unseeded in the French Open which starts Monday because all the top players, except American Brad Gilbert, were entered.

But Connors, who would have been seeded fifth, told organizers Tuesday he would have to withdraw because of a foot injury and Mecir, the world number seven, also pulled out with back problems.

Their withdrawals meant Guillermo Perez-Roldan, the Argentine teenager who extended world number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia to five sets in Sunday's Italian Open final, and McEnroe take the last two seeded places.

NBA ROUNDUP

Lakers, Dallas advance to Western Conference finals

NEW YORK (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers and Dallas Mavericks moved within a victory of the Western Conference finals with tight wins Tuesday night.

The defending champion Lakers once again struggled against Utah before squeezing out a 111-109 decision. Los Angeles, seeking to become the first National Basketball Association (NBA) champion to repeat since 1969, won it on Michael Cooper's only basket of the game, a jump shot from near the top of the key with seven seconds remaining.

Dallas, which can wrap up the series at home in game 6 Thursday night, beat short-handed Denver 110-106.

The Nuggets, who finished one game ahead of the Mavericks in the NBA's Midwest Division this season, were without Lafayette Lever and Jay Vincent, their second and third-leading scorers in the playoffs. Both are injured and Lever won't be available Thursday night, either.

The sixth game of both best-of-seven semifinal series will be Thursday night, at Salt Lake City and at Dallas.

After Cooper's basket, the first game-winner of his 10-year career, put the Lakers ahead 110-109, James Worthy stole Marc Iavaroni's inbound pass. Worthy was fouled and made one free throw with five seconds left. He missed the second shot, however, and Utah but was unable to get off a shot before time ran out.

Cooper, who scored only three points, hit his winning shot five seconds after Utah had taken a 109-108 lead on a baseline jumper by Thurl Bailey, who led the Jazz with 28 points.

On the ensuing possession, Magic Johnson penetrated the Utah defense and then fed the ball to Cooper, who was wide open outside.

Worthy led the Lakers with 27 points. Byron Scott added 24, Johnson contributed 20 and Mychal Thompson 18 for the Lakers, who have beaten the Jazz in 32 of their last 35 games at the forum.

Karl Malone finished with 27. Mavericks 110, Nuggets 106

Poor free-throw shooting by the Nuggets down the stretch was the difference. Denver, the NBA's top shooting team from the line this season, missed seven straight free throws in the final seven minutes.

Denver coach Doug Moe said seven missed free throws "ended up killing us. We're a good free-throw shooting team. It was a fluke."

Rolando Blackman had 18 of his 24 points in the second half. Blackman's 18-foot jumper gave Dallas a 106-102 lead with 40 seconds left. After a pair of free throws by Denver's Danny Scabey, Aguirre's long-range basket from the right side made it 109-104.

Hopes of 800 million Indians rest on Usha

NEW DELHI (R) — The Olympic hopes of 800 million Indians rest on the slim shoulders of a hurdler known as P.T. who trains on a beach but has consistently struck gold in Asia and finished fourth at the 1984 Olympic games.

But in Seoul this year a formidable array of Eastern Bloc athletes stand in the way of Pillavallakandi Thekparambil Usha's dream of bettering her performance in the 400 metres hurdles. The 1984 Olympics were boycotted by the Soviet bloc.

"She is the only hope for us. So, in that sense she carries the aspirations of more people than anyone else at Seoul," said Indian Olympic Association member Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

India's Olympic record is dismal in all sports except men's hockey, in which it has won eight golds, a silver and two bronzes. "But even our hockey standard has become so poor that we barely qualified," said Malhotra.

Only one individual Olympic medal has been won by India — a bantamweight wrestling gold at Helsinki in 1952.

"We don't do the selections in a proper way, there are not enough facilities and our training camps should begin four years before the Olympics, not four months," said Malhotra.

The pressure to win the first Olympic track medal for India appears to have little effect on Usha, 24, a lanky and soft-spoken employee of Indian Railways.

P.T. still trains on a beach near her native Payyoli village in southern Kerala State where Madhavan Namhath selected her more than 10 years ago to coach into one of Asia's outstanding athletes.

"It's my favourite training spot. The vastness gives me a sense of freedom which I don't experience anywhere else," Usha said in her autobiography "Golden Girl."

She says she learned to run when she was 10, waiting near a mango

orchard to pick up fruit that fell from the trees. She would race her three sisters for the fruit and usually won.

"I ate more than all my sisters put together," she said.

Usha's successes and a lack of comparable talent have forced India to enter her in as many events as possible to win medals. She has taken part in five or six events at every Asian competition since 1984.

"The country has given me so much, I must repay it. If I don't, who will?" says Usha. She won five golds at the Asian Track and Field Championships in Jakarta in 1985 and four of India's five golds at the Seoul Asian Games a year later.

India sent a contingent of more than 400 officials and competitors to the Asian Games, provoking widespread criticism in Indian newspapers of the squad's size and selection.

Papers said Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi telephoned Sports Minister Margaret Alva in the middle of the games to ask why India had not yet won any event.

Told by Alva that India would start winning once Usha's events began, Gandhi was reported to have said: "Then, send only Usha in future."

Usha herself said she was disturbed that India took more than 10 days to win a gold and that it spurred her to go all out on her first appearance, the 200 metres heats, where she set an Asian Games record.

"There was really no need for me to go flat out. But I just wanted to shake off the Indian blues," she said.

The challenge in 1988 will be even tougher than that in Los Angeles for Usha, running against a full strength field of top East European 400 metres hurdlers and ranked in the lower half of the world's top 50 in the event.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Extension

WEEK ON IT
By Stanley B. Whitely

ACROSS
1 Island of grooves
2 Loose org.
3 Lines a roof
4 Vipers
5 Arctic or Indian
6 Declaration of football
7 Deltite
8 Unique
9 SSS group
10 Decapentaglass
11 Bench
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13 Pile
14 Kid
15 Wanderer
16 Prior
17 Organic compound

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11 Question word
12 Magnificent
13 More unusual
14 Sarc. prof.
15 Building block
16 Liberal
17 God of love
18 Cravets
19 Mine finds

20 Landlord's money
21 Cotton fiber
22 Go up alone
23 Brie s.g.
24 Roger Federer
25 Bulgarian s.g.
26 Sun
27 Fertile earth
28 Cut
29 Subtle
30 Pliable

31 Calendar abbr.
32 Unwar
33 "Ode" - "Highlygate"
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36 Car as a reward
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Sikh gunmen surrender en masse in Amritsar

AMRITSAR (AP) — Forty-six Sikh extremists holed up in the Golden Temple surrendered to police Wednesday, and a senior police official said he believed there were no more Sikh gunmen left in the sprawling complex.

The surrender came on the 10th day of the siege of the holy shrine, spiritual and militant headquarters of Sikhs waging a violent campaign for a separate

nation. "According to two men who surrendered (and) went back (inside), there is no terrorist inside the temple," Punjab state police

commander K.P.S. Gill told reporters.

However, Gill said police had not yet entered the Golden Temple's inner sanctum, the holiest part of the shrine. To confirm that no Sikh gunmen were still inside.

Earlier in the day, police had said about 60 extremists remained in the temple complex, but that figure was only an estimate.

In addition to those who gave themselves up during a police cease-fire, Gill said one extremist was shot to death by police when he tried to flee during the surrender. Three others committed suicide, he said.

Those who surrendered, including one woman, emerged from the Golden Temple, whose ground floor contains the inner sanctum, Gill said. They came out with their hands in the air, he said.

On Sunday, 146 Sikhs surrendered as police, commandos and paramilitary troops steadily tightened their hold on the walled compound, which includes offices, residential quarters and a dining hall, in addition to the Golden Temple itself.

Since then, the security forces' sharpshooters have kept up their pressure on the complex with bursts of machine gun fire, incendiary bullets and smoke bombs. The government forces were on rooftops of most buildings overlooking the complex. Commandos had moved inside the walls and occupied the dining hall and two brick towers that had been used as lookout posts by the militants early in the siege.



Rudolf Hess

'Hess was murdered'

LONDON (R) — A British historian alleged Wednesday that Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess, who died in a Berlin war crime prison after 47 years' captivity, was murdered to prevent his imminent release.

Hugh Thomas said in a statement he had strong evidence contradicting the official verdict of his jailers — World War II allies Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — that Hess, 93, hanged himself at Spandau jail last August.

"There is no substance in the allegation that prisoner number seven, Rudolf Hess, committed suicide... on the contrary, there is overwhelming evidence that murder was committed," he said.

An inquiry carried out by the British Royal Military Police concluded that Hess, the only prisoner at Spandau since 1963, had hanged himself on electrical flex tied to a window latch. Thomas, whose book "Hess: a tale of two murders" is to be published Thursday, said Hess's family had evidence that a suicide note found on his body was a fake and that British officials had destroyed crucial evidence.

He said Britain had feared that Soviet Union was about to lift its veto on Hess's release, allowing the former Nazi to reveal embarrassing details of a wartime plot to overthrow Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

"They've hidden behind the veto very successfully for a long time," Thomas said. "The reason... is quite simply the protection of the reputation of people in the hierarchical system of the government."

He said he would give no details of his evidence but would be prepared to present it at an international investigation.

The four wartime allies had guarded Hess at Spandau since he was jailed for life on charges of conspiracy into Scotland in 1941 on an apparent mission to negotiate a peace with Britain.

The Western allies repeatedly called for Hess's release but the Soviet Union vetoed the move, arguing that Hitler's long-time comrade should die in jail.

Hess's family has also expressed doubts about the allied verdict of his death.

His son Wolf-Ruediger had campaigned for years for Hess's release, accusing the Allies of inhumanity.

Dukakis boosts nomination quest with victory in Oregon

PORTLAND (R) — Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis extended a string of impressive victories over Jesse Jackson in their race for the Democratic presidential nomination, beating the black civil rights activist in Oregon.

With 45 per cent of the ballots counted in Tuesday's primary election, Dukakis had 58 per cent of the vote, compared with 37 per cent for Jackson.

Tennessee Senator Albert Gore and Missouri Representative Richard Gephardt each got two per cent of the vote. They had dropped out of the race, but their names were on the ballot.

Vice President George Bush, the expected Republican nominee in the November general election, ran unopposed in Oregon.

After Tuesday's primary, in which Dukakis took an estimated 27 of the 45 Oregon Democratic delegates at stake, the candidates

will shift their attention to California. As the most populous state, California will have 314 delegates at stake in its June 7 primary.

Both Jackson and Bush were scheduled to campaign in California Wednesday.

Jackson told reporters in Los Angeles he thought he ran a good race in Oregon. "We keep fighting the odds, including the invisible hand of lower expectations," he said.

Jackson said he expected to meet with Dukakis in California before the end of this week.

Some view California, where Dukakis in recent polls has held a 10 percentage point lead over Bush, as the beginning point for the general election campaign between the two men.

In a preview of the November election, a joint CBS News-New York Times poll and a separate survey by the Louis Harris Organization showed Dukakis with a

strong lead over Bush.

The CBS/News poll said Monday that Dukakis lead Bush in all regions of the country and has a 49-39 per cent edge nationally.

Harris said Dukakis leads Bush in all regions except the south and holds a 50-43 per cent national advantage.

Dukakis's Oregon campaign chairman, State Senator Gratton Kerans, said he expected the governor's streak of primary victories to continue.

Since early April, Dukakis has marched towards the party nomination with decisive victories over Jackson in Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Oregon.

Jackson's spokesman in Oregon, James Klonoski, conceded: "There's a certain logic now among Democrats that Dukakis is going to be the candidate, so you go with the winner."

Jackson conspiracy thwarted

ST LOUIS (R) — A man who U.S. agents said is a member of a white supremacist group and his wife have been charged with conspiring to kill Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, authorities said Tuesday. Londell Williams, 30, and his wife Tammy, 27, of Washington, Missouri, were also charged in a federal court here with threatening an informant and with possessing an automatic rifle. Their arrest Friday was not made public until Tuesday while authorities continued their investigation into the case. They are being held without bond. Secret service agent J. Christopher Murphy testified at a hearing that agents had taped a conversation in which Londell Williams said a white supremacist group called the Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord was planning to assassinate Jackson July 4. Murphy testified that an informant had led authorities to a wooded area near St. Louis where they found a loaded automatic rifle that belonged to the Williamses. In 1985, authorities raided the group's 91 hectare compound in northern Arkansas and found an arsenal of illegal weapons, including anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns, as well as hate literature, explosives, poison, gold and stolen trucks. In Los Angeles Tuesday night, Jackson said the disclosure of the plot would not deter him from his campaign.

Controversy over new Prince album

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Controversy over the cover of rock star Prince's new album, "Love and Sex," on which the singer appears nude but with his legs strategically placed, does not appear to have hurt sales. The album has sold at least 1.6 million copies since its May 10 release even though some record outlets are refusing to sell it. Prince's publicist Robyn Riggs said Monday, "Obviously, it doesn't seem to be hurting," she said of the controversy. The album sold 800,000 copies in the first week in the United States and 800,000 in Great Britain in the first four days, she said. Sales of the album's first single, "Alphabet St.," were at least 700,000 in the United States, she said.

TV shows solve crimes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If you're a wanted criminal in America, watch out. "Unsolved Mysteries" or "America's Most Wanted," may send the police to your doorstep. Jerry Strickland was arrested in connection with a 1987 Michigan murder when 20 people recognised him after seeing NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" last February. Strickland was watching when he was arrested. He told police it was his favourite show. One fugitive, James Charles Stark, was found on the basis of a promotional ad for an upcoming episode of Fox Broadcasting's weekly programme "America's Most Wanted." Stark, convicted three times as a sex offender, was wanted in connection with a murder and a rape. Fox contends 13 dangerous criminals are behind bars today as a result of profiles in the first 12 weeks of "America's Most Wanted," the network's highest-rated show in the most recent rating period. Actor Robert Stack, host of "Unsolved Mysteries," said four cases have been resolved as a result of that show. "This is a public service," Stack said. "It works. Television is such a saturation medium. People blame television for passive viewing. This is active viewing, with two-way communications. You can help solve a mystery."

Author laments early success

PITTSBURGH (AP) — He is 24 years old and his first novel has brought a record-breaking \$155,000 advance and talk of a possible movie, but Michael Chabon still lives a quiet life and is trying to pretend it did not happen. In fact, his big lament is that he did not have to work a little harder and get a little older before success came. "The Mysteries of Pittsburgh" was meant to be his master's thesis, but his professor sent it to an agent. New York publisher William Morrow and Company paid \$155,000 for the book cover rights, the most ever given for a first novel. Since its April release, Chabon's novel has his best-seller lists, foreign rights have been sold in 13 countries and bids for paperback rights are in the six figures. A motion picture also is planned.

First high-level Sino-Soviet meeting in 20 years underway

PEKING (R) — Chinese and Soviet generals have met to discuss border issues in what is believed to be their first formal contact since their forces clashed on the frontier in 1969, Soviet bloc sources said Wednesday.

The generals and other senior frontier officers met in Peking in April as members of a working group set up to hammer out technical details of a border agreement.

A Soviet bloc source said they discussed how low planes could fly over the eastern section of the border while carrying out mapping surveys and how far officials could travel on the ground to inspect the disputed frontier.

Relations between the two Communist giants collapsed in the early 1960s, sparking off skirmishes across the Amur and Ussuri rivers along their eastern frontier. Hostilities reached a climax in the summer of 1969 when Soviet authorities registering almost 500 border infringements and armed skirmishes.

"We believe these are the first talks between the Soviet and Chinese military for almost 20 years when they met after the Ussuri fighting," an East European source said.

Moscow and Peking resumed border talks in February, 1987, after a nine-year break. Negotiations have been held between the two foreign ministries up to the rank of deputy minister.

The dispute dates back more than a century and, along the eastern border, is focused on strings of islands.

"The Soviets had been pressing for military experts to be included in the talks but China had always refused. This seems to be a concession," a second East European source said.

"It is natural that the defence ministries should be involved in the working group talks. These are technical, military matters," the Soviet bloc source said. He declined to identify the generals.

China's Foreign Ministry and Defence Ministry declined to

comment on the talks. Soviet embassy officials were not available.

Western diplomats said they saw the military contacts as possible first moves leading to confidence-building measures along the border.

"A non-aggression treaty between the two is years away but they both recognise that maintaining such forces along the border is a huge drain of resources," a Western diplomat said.

"The Chinese have given up their paranoia of the Russians pouring across the border but they still see the Soviet Union as the greatest potential threat," he commented.

Soviet troop concentrations along the border with China are one of three major obstacles listed by Peking as blocking the normalisation of relations with the Kremlin.

The other two are Moscow's military intervention in Afghanistan and its backing of Vietnam's role in Kampuchea.

"They've hidden behind the veto very successfully for a long time," Thomas said. "The reason... is quite simply the protection of the reputation of people in the hierarchical system of the government."

He said he would give no details of his evidence but would be prepared to present it at an international investigation.

The four wartime allies had guarded Hess at Spandau since he was jailed for life on charges of conspiracy into Scotland in 1941 on an apparent mission to negotiate a peace with Britain.

The Western allies repeatedly called for Hess's release but the Soviet Union vetoed the move, arguing that Hitler's long-time comrade should die in jail.

Hess's family has also expressed doubts about the allied verdict of his death.

His son Wolf-Ruediger had campaigned for years for Hess's release, accusing the Allies of inhumanity.

Soviet explosion may affect START talks

WASHINGTON (R) — A recent explosion damaged a key long-range missile fuel plant in the Soviet Union and will likely delay Soviet missile deployment, the defence department said Tuesday.

Because the plant made fuel for the SS-24 missiles, the accident could strengthen the U.S. position in nuclear arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union, private defence analysts said.

"An explosion on May 12 in Pavlograd destroyed several buildings at a Soviet propellant plant. Apparently this will delay Soviet solid propellant missile programmes," a defence department statement said.

No immediate information was available on casualties, a department spokesman said.

Pavlograd is in the Ukraine and located 800 kilometres southwest of Moscow.

The spokesman said the explosion would affect the solid fuel missile designated SS-25, which is transported by road, and the SS-24, which is moved by rail and is difficult to target in any counter-attack.

Television reports quoted U.S. intelligence sources as describing the blast as "catastrophic," but said the explosion did not involve a nuclear warhead.

The SS-24 has a range of 6,200 miles, carries 10 warheads and is most like the American MX missiles.

It is believed the Soviets have deployed only 10 of the new SS-24 missiles.

Defence analysts told the NBC television network the plant explosion could be a major blow to the Soviet programme.

The missile is considered an important element of the future Soviet nuclear arsenal, and in the current START talks on limiting long-range nuclear missiles, the United States wants the missile banned.

"The impact on the START talks could be quite positive," defence analyst Frank Gaffney of the Hudson Institute said.

But some U.S. sources think the explosion may be only a temporary setback and the Soviets could resume production of the missiles in a year, the network said.

Senate votes 'no deal' with Noriega

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate called on the Reagan Administration Tuesday not to make a deal to drop drug-trafficking charges against Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega in exchange for his relinquishing power.

The move came as Stanley Morris, director of the U.S. Marshals Service, said marshals would try to track down and apprehend General Noriega to face the charges if U.S. negotiations with him collapsed.

The Senate vote on a non-binding resolution opposing a deal with Noriega was 86-10. Earlier the Senate voted 95-0 to deny U.S. aid to the Panama Defence Forces (PDF) until Noriega, Panama's armed forces chief and de facto ruler, has been removed from office.

Asked for comment on the Senate action, which followed disclosure by administration sources last week that the U.S. government had approved a plan to drop drug charges against Noriega, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said:

"We don't think it's particularly helpful to shut off any kind of option in advance in this kind of circumstance."

"On the other hand, we simply aren't in a position to say anything about this resolution because it is based on an action that has not been taken and one that we have not even confirmed is

even being contemplated."

Morris, in response to questions after a speech at the National Press Club, said of Noriega: "We have two valid arrest warrants issued in Florida. We are pretty good at this."

He said Noriega would be considered a fugitive if the negotiations with an American team in Panama City broke down.

Morris denied he was trying to send a message to Noriega, but his comments appeared aimed at putting more pressure on Noriega's representatives to reach a deal with the U.S. negotiators.

Reagan, who met with reporters hours after the Senate overwhelmingly approved a non-binding resolution opposing such a deal, would not discuss terms of the negotiations with Noriega but vowed that the talks would continue.

"No, I'm not going to back away from what we're trying to do," he said when asked whether he might reconsider the talks.

Reagan repeatedly refused to answer specific questions about the drive to oust Noriega, who has been indicted by two Florida grand juries on drug smuggling and money laundering charges.

"What we're interested in is seeing a restoration of democracy in Panama," he said in one of several references to behind-the-scenes bargaining between U.S.

diplomats and Noriega representatives.

Asked when the bargaining would conclude, Reagan replied: "I wish I knew."

Rejecting suggestions that his administration was backing away from its initial hardline stance against Noriega, the president said: "I can only tell you that we're not going to whitewash anyone."

But the Senate's resolution expressed rising frustration in Washington with the effort to bargain with Noriega.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas broke with the administration to declare that dropping the drug charges against Noriega would be a mistake.

Last week, U.S. attorney Leon Kellner of Miami, a federal prosecutor who brought the drug charges against the Panamanian leader, said both he and Attorney General Edwin Meese were opposed to dropping them.

Dole told the Senate Monday that effective ways should be sought to get Noriega to leave. But he said the right message was: "No deals with drug dealers."

"If we let Noriega off the hook on the drug indictments... we have sent a very regrettable message to the world... that we've got higher priorities than our war on drugs," Dole said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

10 killed in Soviet liner fire

TOKYO (R) — Ten Soviet citizens were killed by a fire on a Russian cruise liner Wednesday at the western Japanese port of Osaka, fire department officials said. The 10 were trapped by the blaze on the bottom passenger deck of the white-painted 4,870-tonne Priamurye. Thirty-five passengers were hurt, some when they jumped into the harbour to escape, and were being treated for burns, carbon monoxide poisoning and other injuries. All the casualties were Russians. About 230 Japanese firefighters, 33 fire engines and two firefighting boats took 11 hours to put out the blaze, a spokesman for the Osaka fire department said. "It looks like some of the passengers in the lower decks couldn't come up and broke through windows and jumped into the water to escape," Vladislav Garisov, deputy director of the Priamurye passenger tour, told Japan's national news agency Kyodo. "We tried hard to keep calm. We don't really know the cause."

Angola wins \$75 million in aid

GENEVA (R) — Angola Tuesday won pledges of \$75 million from donor nations to buy urgently needed food and medical aid for the war-torn country. U.N. officials said. Forty nations took part in the one-day emergency meeting under the auspices of United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO). The goal of the meeting, originally set at \$150.3 million, was scaled back to \$110 million after UNDRO officials discovered an error in their calculation for the price of rice. UNDRO coordinator Mohammed Essaafi said. Essaafi, who chaired the talks, told Reuters: "Angola is satisfied, undoubtedly, by the goodwill which was expressed. I don't believe the figures are final." Essaafi said he expected more governments to contribute. Major donors were the European Community, which pledged \$23 million, Italy with \$21 million, France with \$8 million and Sweden with \$6 million. The balance was contributed by ten other states. The Soviet Union, which backs the Marxist government in Luanda, was absent from the meeting. Angolan Planning Minister Antonio Henriques da Silva said in a speech that 1.5 million of the country's nine million population had been displaced or had urgent needs due to the civil war between UNITA rebels and the Marxist government.

Chinese report praises Bukharin

BEIJING (AP) — An official Chinese newspaper said Wednesday that China welcomes the rehabilitation of Soviet Revolutionary Nikolai Bukharin, and agrees with many of the ideas that led to his being executed by Josef Stalin in 1938. The signed commentary in the China Daily also said Chinese scholars are beginning to explore the "dark age of the Soviet Union under Stalin," and chronicle the crimes of Stalin, who is still regarded in China as one of the great figures of Communism. The reputation of Bukharin, an early Bolshevik theoretician, was rehabilitated by

Soviet authorities in February, 50 years after he became one of the most prominent victims of Stalin's purges. The commentary, written by Zhang Kewen, said China quickly accepted Bukharin's rehabilitation because "similar frame-ups were quite common in their own country in the past, particularly during the cultural revolution." In the past, Chinese accepted the Soviet position that Bukharin, who theorised that class struggle would subside after the Socialist Revolution, was a "right-opportunist," in opposition to Stalin and Mao Tsetung, who insisted class struggle would continue to intensify.

S. Koreans mark Kwangju killings

KWANGJU, South Korea (R) — Thousands of mourners crowded a hillside cemetery near this south-western city Wednesday to remember those killed when the South Korean Army crushed the 1980 Kwangju uprising. Among the simple granite gravestones, many old women in traditional white mourning dress mingled with radical students wearing headbands daubed with anti-government slogans. At least a dozen similar ceremonies were held across the country to mark the anniversary of the nine days when Kwangju was cut off from the world. The government says 193 people died in the revolt against then army strongman Chun Doo Hwan's imposition of martial law. Local people say the real figure is at least 1,000. Many of those who died were students. What local people call the "Kwangju massacre" remains a major issue in South Korean politics and Wednesday a committee of victims' families set out two demands: A full inquiry into the tragedy and punishment of those responsible. Kwangju police mobilised 4,200 men to guard against the trouble which has broken out on previous anniversaries of the rebellion.

Philippine rebels burn down army post

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels burned down an army outpost in the northern Philippines with volleys of flaming arrows, triggering heavy fighting that left 13 dead, the military said Wednesday. The attack at dawn Sunday in Paracelis, mountain province, was the second time in recent months that guerrillas had used petrol-soaked arrows in an offensive against government soldiers in the mountainous region. The operations office of the northern military command said five soldiers were killed when about 150 New People's Army rebels opened fire with machine-guns as the army defenders fled their burning huts. It said eight rebels were killed in a running gunbattle with militiamen sent to reinforce the outnumbered soldiers. Elsewhere, army chief Brigadier-General Mariano Adalem has ordered an "all-out offensive" against rebel strongholds in the Central Luzon region near Manila following intelligence reports of a guerrilla buildup in the area. Central Luzon is the country's "rice bowl" and is regarded as the northern gateway to the capital.